

6,000 prisoners launch hunger strike

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Six thousand Palestinian prisoners announced they were going on an indefinite hunger strike from Tuesday in protest at the way the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership has "abandoned" them. The prisoners put out a statement proclaiming "no peace without unconditional release." They called for Palestinians to hold sit-ins outside Red Cross offices and for a hunger strike outside the new Palestinian National Authority in the self-rule enclave of Jericho. A second statement signed by jailed members of Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement urged a boycott of celebrations planned to mark the return of the PLO chairman to the autonomous areas, expected at the end of June or in early July. "It is amazing that Arafat is more interested in money than his fighters," the statement said, referring to his quest for cash from donor countries to operate autonomy. Israel says it has released some 4,000 of the 5,000 Palestinian prisoners it agreed to free under the May 4 self-rule deal. The remainder refused to agree to pledge to end violence or to serve out their sentences in Gaza or Jericho in line with the autonomy agreement, according to the army.

Volume 18 Number 5641

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جورдан تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية الرأي

Price: Jordan 150 fils

Jordan Times

Palestinian police threaten journalists

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The Palestinian police on Monday threatened that journalists critical of the self-rule authority would be silenced. "Those reporters who draw out their pens and spew their venom are leading the people astray and they must be silenced," said an open letter Monday signed by the public relations department of the Jericho police. "The rudeness in some local papers, which makes us ashamed to call them Palestinian papers, has forced us to respond," said the statement published across a quarter page in Al Nahar daily. It sent a chill through the journalistic community, which hoped that autonomy would bring an end to the widespread censorship experienced under the Israeli occupation. "We are working in a minefield. It is difficult for us to appease the opposition and not irritate the police," said Maher Alami, an editor at Al Quds daily for more than two decades. The paper's administration suspended publication of his column called "Concerns" which focused on current events from a man-on-the-street perspective. Editors said that they had also been told that they could not publish any articles describing what was being done to censor the copy.

King, Christopher hold talks, hope for progress in all tracks

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein on Monday held talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and said he was very pleased with the progress achieved in the Jordanian-Israeli tracks of negotiations and expressed hope that the other tracks in the Arab-Israeli peace process would also achieve similar progress.

The King, speaking at the State Department, also paid tribute to the US efforts that went to advancing the negotiations.

"We are indeed optimistic as far as the future is concerned in our quest for a just, durable and comprehensive peace," the King told reporters. "We are very happy indeed that on the Jordanian-Israeli track we are about to begin to address the problems that were part of the agenda worked out earlier and beginning with border demarcation, delineation."

"We appreciate certainly the role of our friends in supporting us and our efforts to arrive at this point."

The King was asked whether Jordan would sign a peace accord with Israel without waiting for Syria. The

King replied, "we hope to see better support. But regarding us, we follow the Jordanian dimensions of the problem which we have started together from the same point... and as our brethren in Syria are negotiating, we are negotiating at the same time."

Asked if Jordan would sign a peace treaty with Israel if the Kingdom and the Jewish state could reach one before Syria and Lebanon did, the King said:

"It is a difficult question, and I would like to say that Jordan is practising its sovereignty and is dealing with its causes and the way to finding a solution to them. I hope that progress would take place on all other tracks to achieve comprehensive peace."

Asked whether he had recently met with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in London as suggested in some reports, the King said: "I do not confirm or deny such news."

At another point the King said, "I've never been afraid of daylight" and "the opportunity will come sometime soon for a meeting between Israeli and Jordanian officials."

Mr. Christopher said he planned to make another

swing through the Middle East in the coming months to help push forward the peace process.

"I will be probably going to the Middle East sometime before the summer is out. I expect to be going sometime in a relative near future," he said before a lunch with King Hussein.

The King met with Mr. Christopher for almost half an hour, followed by a working lunch attended by representatives of both sides.

On the Jordanian side the talks were attended by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's Political Advisor Marwan Al Qassem, the King's Military Secretary Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, Information Minister Jawad Al Anani, Finance Minister Sami Gammon and Jordan's Ambassador in Washington Fayez Tarawneh.

On the American side the talks were attended by Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs Robert Pelletreau, United States Information Agency (USIA) Director Joseph Davy, National Security Advisor Martin Indyk, Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross and other officials.

The King and the delegation later held talks with Commerce Secretary Ron Brown.

ing some peace... I totally agree with His Majesty King Hussein that it is necessary to achieve peace in a comprehensive framework and I expect that progress would be achieved on all tracks," Mr. Christopher said.

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WAR DAMAGE: Two Yemeni girls look at damages in a school situated in the Sheikh Othman area of Aden on

Monday following shelling by North Yemeni forces during the night (see story below) (AFP photo)

Yemeni fighting rages after truce bid fails

Combined agency dispatches

NORTHERN TROOPS stepped up attempts to capture the southern stronghold of Aden on Monday after U.N. efforts to broker a ceasefire collapsed.

Fighting raged on battlefronts around the city throughout Monday, killing two southern fighters and wounding seven more, according to a military source.

U.N. special envoy Lakhdar Ibrahim said in Cairo after a failed mediation mission that he would not recommend sanctions against the warring sides, saying peace efforts would continue.

The northern Yemeni government gave Mr. Ibrahim new ideas on a ceasefire but a southern Yemeni delegation left Cairo for North Africa saying their rivals were just wasting time.

Mr. Ibrahim tried on Sunday to bring the northerners and southerners together for the first direct talks since war

broke out in Yemen on May 4 but he eventually gave up and decided to fly back to New York to report to the U.N. secretary-general.

He said on Monday morning that both sides agreed that a ceasefire was needed but that they could not agree on a mechanism for making sure it would last.

The northern Yemeni delegation met Mr. Ibrahim again on Monday afternoon and one of the members, Ahmad Al Iryani, told Reuters they submitted new proposals on how to monitor a truce.

He said the proposals were "within the framework of re-activating the joint military commission" but declined to go into details.

The two sides disagree on how to set up a ceasefire mechanism, with the south insisting on international observers and the north pressing for a joint Yemeni military commission set up before the war to be reactivated.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the northern leader, has threatened to storm Aden.

Clinton cautious on Korea

WASHINGTON (R) —

President Bill Clinton said Monday there are "hopeful signs" a clash over North Korea's nuclear programme can be averted, but cautioned that Pyongyang's offer to freeze the programme had to be verified.

It was Mr. Clinton's first public comment on the situation since former President Jimmy Carter returned from a private visit to North Korea with a set of understandings designed to ease suspicions about the North's nuclear ambitions.

But he said peace efforts would continue, and said he would not recommend sanctions against the warring sides. "We are not at that stage yet, we are searching for a solution and we will continue our efforts," he told reporters as he left Cairo for New York.

Emad Abdul Meguid, secretary general of the Arab League, said after talks with Mr. Ibrahim on Monday: "A solution to the Yemeni crisis is emerging on the horizon."

President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the northern leader, has threatened to storm Aden.

Mr. Ibrahim said: "There are two things everyone agrees on, including the warring parties — the need for a ceasefire and for dialogue to find a solution."

"But above all else we need a ceasefire. We have to set up a mechanism to monitor it and then we can start talking."

But he said peace efforts would continue, and said he would not recommend sanctions against the warring sides. "We are not at that stage yet, we are searching for a solution and we will continue our efforts," he told reporters as he left Cairo for New York.

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Mr. Carter said after briefing White House aides Sunday that he thought the crisis was over, but Mr. Clinton was clearly more wary.

"There are some hopeful signs... but the critical question is: Are they willing to freeze this nuclear programme?" the president said in an interview on NBC's "Today" show.

"If it's going to be frozen, then clearly that is ground for talking, but we have to know what the facts are so we'll be attempting to determine that."

Mr. Carter briefed top Clinton administration officials Sunday upon return from a private visit to North Korea.

"This is a violation of the agreement, straight and naked violation of the agree-

Shaath harassed by Israeli soldiers

JERICHO (Agencies) —

Top Palestinian negotiator Nabil Shaath, on a tour of the self-rule area of Jericho, accused Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Monday of violating his peace agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"Mr. Rabin used to tell us that Israel takes time until it agrees but when it agrees it commits itself to everything it agrees. Everywhere I am seeing here violations by Israel of this agreement," he said.

Israeli soldiers prevented Dr. Shaath from visiting the King Hussein Bridge over the Jordan River, the main link between the West Bank and Jordan.

Dr. Shaath postponed a visit to east Jerusalem on Monday for what another Palestinian negotiator said

(Continued on page 12)

ment," Dr. Shaath angrily told reporters after troops at a roadside forced his car to turn back.

A spokesman for Mr. Rabin said he would have to check on the charges before commenting.

Dr. Shaath, a member of the Palestinian authority, had been living in Egypt until last week when he arrived to take up permanent residence in the self-ruled area of Gaza.

He also complained Israeli soldiers were forcing Palestinian farmers to wait for hours at a checkpoint separating Jericho from the village of Ojja, both within the West Bank self-ruled area.

Dr. Shaath postponed a visit to east Jerusalem on Monday for what another Palestinian negotiator said

(Continued on page 12)

Appeals court upholds verdict in Times case

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Court of Appeals has upheld sentences passed on the chief editor of the Jordan Times, George Hawatmeh, and reporter Sana Atiyeh, who were convicted of violating Articles 40/A/2 and 42 of the law, which was passed by the 11th Parliament and came into effect in the middle of 1993.

The first article stipulates that publications are forbidden to print "news items, drawings or commentaries disparaging the Armed Forces or the security apparatus."

"Article 42 forbids publishing transcripts of any case before the final verdict, except with court permission."

"Both journalists had pleaded not guilty to the charges."

(Continued on page 12)

Chopra: Jordanian potential high in W. Bank, Gaza

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The World Bank believes Jordan stands to benefit considerably from the development of the Palestinian economy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip since the Kingdom could offer key ingredients to the economic process that has been launched with the beginning of Palestinian self-government.

Massive artillery and rocket duels raged along the northern fringes of the enclave after the ambush, killing an elderly woman and wounding three other civilians in Kfar Tibnit. The shelling caused several fires in wheat fields.

The Islamic Resistance, Hizbullah's military arm, claimed responsibility for the attack on the Israeli patrol saying several soldiers were killed and many vehicles were destroyed.

The guerrillas struck shortly after Israeli planes rocked Hizbullah outposts in southeastern Lebanon — the most explosive frontline in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Peace talks between Lebanon and Israel have made little progress.

The sources said Israel was maintaining a recent escalation of air raids into Lebanon — sent warplanes to blast Hizbullah positions in hills near Maydon on the southern edge of the western Bekaa Valley from where the

Ram Chopra, head of the Middle East (Al Mashreq) division of the World Bank, also said that private-sector-led growth in exports and development of human resources were two key steps that should see Jordan address its economic problems and achieve self-reliance.

"Given its proximity to the West Bank and Gaza, Jordan potentially can gain from the investments that we expect to happen, given the large aid flows that are coming to the West Bank and Gaza," Mr. Chopra said in an interview. "Given the skill levels that are present in Jordan, (Jordanians) could participate, advise and help the West Bank and Gaza people in their development programmes."

"The World Bank is coordinating the aid flow to the West Bank and Gaza, and the World Bank is involved in the implementation of the projects that are going to be done in the West Bank and Gaza as a result of the large-scale investment that is being implemented," Mr. Chopra said.

Asked whether this meant that the World Bank was considering the aid flow to the Palestinians as an "indirect" means of help to Jordan, Mr. Chopra said: "Yes, that is one of the U.N. recommendations. That is exactly what I mean."

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, met with Mr. Chopra on Sun-

day for a review of World Bank programmes in Jordan and related issues as well as the economic impact of the peace process on the Kingdom.

Describing relations between Jordan and the World Bank as the best in the region, Mr. Chopra said he and the Regent discussed "the programmes that we should have between Jordan and the World Bank for the next three or four years."

"We had full understanding about the kind of priorities that we should have in Jordan, which include looking at encouraging the private sector-led, export-led growth," he said. Other bilateral issues covered during the meeting, he said, included developing human resources and environmental issues.

Another key topic was how

(Continued on page 12)

Middle East News

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 1994

Nashashibi to set up operations in month

JERICHO (R) — The man responsible for running Palestinian self-rule finances has returned to the West Bank for the first time in 28 years and vowed to have finance and tax departments up and running within a month.

Mohammad Nashashibi holds the finance portfolio in the Palestinian authority and is the first member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Executive Committee to return under the peace deal with Israel.

"The purpose of my visit is to set up my ministry and get it running efficiently. This is the most important department," he told reporters at a relative's house in Jericho where he was greeted by well-wishers.

"I think it will take a maximum one month."

Mr. Nashashibi, a 68-year-old former bank manager, will be in charge of raising taxes and arranging finances for the Palestinian self-rule administration which began last month in Gaza and Jericho.

Palestinian self-rule in its first few weeks has been hampered by a critical shortage of funds. Policemen and civil servants have been paid until the end of June but it is not clear what will happen after that.

Many offices inherited from the Israeli-run civil administration are not running at full strength and other new offices Palestinians have announced they are setting up so far remain on paper.

Afghan peace talks slightly delayed

KABUL (AFP) — A meeting of special peace delegations from rival Afghan faction leaders President Burhanuddin Rabbani and Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has been postponed by one day, an official mediator said Monday.

"Everything is finalised for Tuesday," said Jalil Shams, who is also deputy foreign minister.

Mr. Shams, who returned to Kabul Monday after a meeting with Mr. Hekmatyar at the prime minister's Charasiab headquarters east of the capital, said the proposed Monday meeting had been delayed because the delegations had not been ready in time.

"The composition of the delegations was not complete and some of the delegates were not yet in the country," he explained.

He said he was hopeful the meeting — scheduled at the headquarters of Hekmatyar's Shabihe Alayh, Hezb-e-Islami faction leader Abdul Al Mazari — would begin Tuesday on time.

Mr. Shams said the first item on the agenda would be a declaration of a ceasefire and the lifting of all blockades on national highways.

The ceasefire will be valid till the end of June. If the negotiations are successful then it will be extended," Mr. Shams declared.

Mr. Hekmatyar expects Mr. Rabbani to resign at the end of June in accordance with earlier peace accords but spokesman for the Afghan president have repeatedly stated that Mr. Rabbani will only surrender his authority to a national assembly.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19
PROGRAMME TWO
17:45 Envoy Special
18:30 News in French
18:45 Grands Galops
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 Step by Step
21:30 Daily summary of football
22:00 News in English
23:00 World Cup: Germany vs Spain

PRAYER TIMES

Fajr
05:55 (Sunrise Date)
Dhuhr
12:57
Asr
16:18
Magrib
21:24
Isha

CHURCHES

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Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632783
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrassas Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Assumption Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel. 628343

Mr. Nashashibi said none of the \$42 million urgent aid promised by donors at a World Bank-run conference in Paris this month had arrived in the PLO's coffers. The PLO says it desperately needs the money for running costs.

Many Israelis and Palestinians say the self-rule administration needs to show rapid economic benefits to the population in Gaza and Jericho to win their support. But Mr. Nashashibi said the money issue had been overplayed.

"We are struggling for 50 years and money never was a burning issue, and it is not a burning issue now. We will get the money sooner or later," he said.

Mr. Nashashibi said the PLO was seriously considering a proposal by the International Monetary Fund to allow private banks and the post office to collect revenues for the authority, taking a commission. The civil administration used a similar system.

"We have to choose the right banks, with a good reputation and we are considering this now," he said.

His first priority, he said, was to fill the 350 positions out of about 600 in the finance and customs departments of the former civil administration that had been occupied by Israelis.

Mr. Nashashibi, who comes from a prominent East Jerusalem family, left the West Bank in 1966 and has since lived in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan.

Abdul Rahim hails Jordan-Israel progress

AMMAN (Petra) — The Palestinian ambassador to Jordan Al Tayeb Abdul Rahim, on Monday welcomed the progress achieved along the Jordanian-Israeli track of the Arab-Israeli peace process and stressed that the achievement in no way contradicts Jordan's commitment to coordination with the other Arab parties.

Mr. Abdul Rahim, who has been appointed as minister of the Palestine National Authority's presidency affairs, said progress along the Jordanian-Israeli track constitutes support for the Palestinians and backs any progress along all the other Arab-Israeli tracks.

Denying that progress

along any one track could lead to Israel reaching separate treaties with the Arab states, Mr. Abdul Rahim said that each of the Arab parties involved in the peace process seeks a lasting and just solution and they are in agreement that there can be no final treaty before all outstanding issues along all the other Arab parties have been settled.

"We welcome the progress achieved on the Jordanian-Israeli track and we consider it as an achievement because it aims at regaining Arab lands and waters," Mr. Abdul Rahim said. "Progress along any one track should not frighten any other Arab party. On the contrary such progress can be conducive to coordination with all Arab parties will

achieve further advances along the other tracks."

Thanking Jordan for its help to the Palestinian people, he said that the Kingdom had been a "brother to Palestine and the Palestinian people and this was clearly manifested during all the negotiation sessions with Israel."

He said that the Palestine National Authority and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) should deepen their relations with the Arab World, particularly with Jordan and Egypt in the economic fields so that the Palestinian economic infrastructure can be based on firm ground.

Stressing that coordination with all Arab parties will

continue, the ambassador urged Arab countries to extend full backing to Syria and its demand for a complete end to the Israeli occupation of the Golan Heights in exchange for peace.

Referring to the delay in the signing of the Palestinian-Jordanian economic accord, the ambassador said the Palestinians were seeking an appropriate mechanism for the implementation of the agreement reached in January, "especially now that we have secured substantial gains through the Palestinian-Israeli economic agreement which had not been taken into account" when Jordan and the PLO reached the January accord.

Army reseals home of Palestinian activist

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli soldiers sealed up the home of a Palestinian activist Sunday two days after it was broken open by demonstrators testing the limits of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace accord.

The house in Izzariya, a West Bank town next to Jerusalem, belongs to the family of Samer Al Masri, 22. It was cemented shut five years ago when he went to prison for throwing stones at Israelis.

Mr. Masri, who was active with the PLO's mainstream Fatah movement, is out of jail after a four-year prison term. He is now a supporter of the Israel-PLO accord, and works in a pizzeria in a Jewish neighbourhood in Jerusalem.

The army had no comment. But Israel Radio quoted military sources as confirming the house was resealed and asserting it was up to the army to decide when a sealed home should be opened.

Since occupying the West Bank in the 1967 Mideast war, the army often punished Palestinians charged with violence by sealing their homes in addition to jailing them.

But the practice virtually ground to a halt in the wake of last September's peace accord, which led to autonomy for the Gaza Strip and West Bank area of Jericho.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Saath invites Chirac to 'beautify' Gaza

JERICHO (AFP) — Senior Palestinian official Nabil Shaath said Monday he plans to invite Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac to the autonomous area of Gaza in an effort to "beautify" the place. "Paris is beautiful, we want to cooperate with France to also make Gaza beautiful," said Dr. Shaath, who holds the portfolio of minister of international cooperation in the new Palestinian Authority.

He was speaking to reporters after a meeting with Jean de Gliniasty, France's consul-general in East Jerusalem. Some 800,000 Palestinians are crowded into the Gaza Strip where the intifada against Israel exploded in December 1987 leading to civic breakdown. Public services have largely collapsed, rubbish remains uncollected, many streets are potholed or just dust tracks and virtually every wall is daubed with graffiti. Some effort has been made to clean up Gaza City, but Palestinians acknowledge a lot remains to be done. Dr. Shaath said his talks with Mr. De Gliniasty focused on French aid toward the cleaning up of Gaza. "I am thinking of contacting Jacques Chirac to come visit Gaza with French experts and remove all traces of the occupation," Dr. Shaath said.

Two civilians assassinated in Algeria

ALGIERS (AFP) — Two Algerian civilians were killed in eastern Algeria by unknown assailants, security services said Monday, taking to six the number of civilians gunned down in June by suspected Islamic fundamentalists.

Mohammed Roubah, 62, a member of the independence war's veterans' association, was killed near his home in Constantine on Saturday. Maalab Al Eulmi was shot dead in Batna on Friday, security services said, but gave no other details.

The killings bring to six the number of civilians slain so far this month by suspected fundamentalist militants. Yousef Fatallah, president of the Algerian Human Rights league, was shot and killed in his Algiers office Saturday, following the death earlier of the rector of Béja Ezzouar University, Salah Djebaili, chief of the government customs service Abdullah Moussouni and journalist Ferhat Cherkit.

Damascus Declaration to discuss Yemen

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Foreign ministers from Egypt, Syria and six Gulf Arab states will meet in Kuwait next week to discuss the civil war in Yemen, the official Emirates news agency WAM said on Monday. It said the war, which erupted between rival north and south forces on May 5, would top the agenda during talks by the ministers from the Damascus Declaration alliance at their ninth meeting from June 27 and 29.

Egypt and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have been actively involved in efforts to end the hostilities, which have led the south to declare independence four years after former North and South Yemen were merged. At talks in Riyadh earlier this month, GCC foreign ministers urged the warring parties to respect a U.N. call for a ceasefire in a communiqué which carried an implicit recognition of the southern breakaway state. But so far no country has officially recognised the Yemen Democratic Republic.

Bashir, U.S. envoy discuss Sudan peace

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's president Omar Hassan Al Bashir discussed the peace process in war-torn Sudan with U.S. envoy Melisse Wells during her visit last week, the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said on Monday. SUNA quoted General Bashir as telling his cabinet that Ms. Wells, envoy of U.S. President Bill Clinton, was informed of the government's efforts to achieve peace in Sudan. The government is fighting rebels in the south. Ms. Wells, who visited Khartoum and Kordofan state, also discussed relief assistance to the Sudanese. Ms. Wells, who met Gen. Bashir on June 13, has described her visit to Sudan as "constructive."

Turkey apprehensive of Russian designs

ANKARA (AP) — Turkey watched the collapse of its giant Soviet neighbour to the north with relief three years ago. But the feeling did not last.

Fear of Russian nationalism, unrest in the Caucasus and the spread of ethnic violence close to its borders again upset Turkey.

If nationalist and expansionist policies to rebuild an empire prevail in Russia, it will be a threat for the whole world," Prime Minister Tansu Ciller said recently.

Last month, General Dogan Gures, the chief of staff, told the daily Sabah: "Russia became a serious danger... Today, there is a Russia which behaves with a czarist motivation."

The military retracted Gen. Gures's statement after the Russian Foreign Ministry protested.

There was a heavy exchange of shelling in the capital late Sunday but the city was calm Monday, although in the south around the Darulaman Palace there was tension between opposing factions who have clashed daily for the last five days.

The pro-Rabbani Shabihe Alayh faction fought with elements of Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami faction at Darulaman late Sunday and a nearby base was seen still burning late Monday.

A day of battles between rival Afghan parties over stolen jeeps killed one person and injured 20 on Sunday.

Fierce exchanges of heavy machinegun fire, rockets and shelling raged throughout the day between the forces of Mr. Hekmatyar and guerrillas of the Harakat-e-Islami, witnesses said.

More than 20 people have been killed and dozens injured since the latest clash in the war-shattered city erupted on Thursday, when each side accused the other of stealing vehicles.

It is not yet clear if Mr. Hekmatyar's ally, ex-communist General Abdul Rashid Dostum, will be invited to Herat.

After the Soviet collapse, Turkey was overjoyed with talk of its rise as a regional power as a result of a Western preference for its secular, democratic state over the

newly independent nations in central Asia and Azerbaijan, where 50 million people, most of Turkish origin, live.

But Ankara could not pledge funding to its fellow predominantly Muslim republics.

Ambassador Unur Arik, who heads a Foreign Ministry agency overseeing relations with the Central Asian republics, talked last week in a parliament about financial restraints with tears rolling down his cheeks.

Turkey educates 8,000 students from these countries but it is unclear whether they take home pro-Turkish views.

Russia already has a military presence in Georgia and is pushing for a similar arrangement in Armenia and Azerbaijan. Moscow also wants to increase its armour in the northern Caucasus.

"Our neighbour Russia is increasingly closer," Altan Oynes, the daily Milliyet's chief columnist, wrote.

International experts feel Russia is less threatening now to Turkey, which joined the

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) to counter the Soviet threat and was a staunch U.S. ally during the cold war.

"Russia is hardly a military threat to Turkey, but there will be frictions," said Alvin Z. Rubinstein, a political science professor at the University of Pennsylvania.

Ottoman Turks and the czars Russia fought 13 wars in the 18th and 19th centuries. Relations improved after the Bolshevik Revolution and the founding of modern Turkey in 1923, but soured after World War II, when the Soviet Union demanded Turkish territory in the east and control over the Turkish straits.

Turkey is also watching other former Soviet states. President Suleyman Demirel visited Ukraine last month to reaffirm Turkey's commitment to Ukraine's territorial integrity.

It has been carefully monitoring the attempts of a Russian majority in Crimea to join Russia. About 150,000 Turkish-speaking Crimean

Tatars are caught in the territorial tug-of-war between Russia and Ukraine.

Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev of Russia said in Istanbul last week during a NATO meeting that his country had second thoughts about new Turkish safety rules for passing through the Turkish straits, which Russia wants to use for oil shipments.

Ankara feels Moscow is delaying agreement on building an oil pipeline from Central Asia and Azerbaijan through Turkey to the Mediterranean Sea.

Turkey is hampered by Kurdish separatists seeking an independent homeland in the southeast. The government has been under fire from the West for its harsh military crackdown on the unrest.

Moscow is aware of Turkey's weakness. A Kurdish conference in Moscow in February brought together the Kurdish populations of the former Soviet Union as well as Turkey's Kurds, to Ankara's dismay.

Rabin accuses union leaders of weakening Labour

TEL AVIV (AP) — Hecklers nearly shouted Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin off the podium at a Labour Party meeting Sunday when he accused union leaders of encouraging a right-wing political comeback in Israel.

The dispute was over the party's failure to patch up quarrels which has lost it a crucial labour union election and threatens to undermine Mr. Rabin's authority at a critical juncture in Mideast peace efforts.

Angry central committee members drowned out much of Mr. Rabin's speech in a Tel Aviv suburb. He scolded them for sanctioning union coalitions talks with the right-wing Likud Party, suggesting that a Likud foothold in the power-

Labour breakaway, Haifa.

Someone was heard shouting, "We have some complaints about you." And Mr. Rabin later left the hall in protest when a Tel Aviv Labour leader, Gershon Gelman, was given the floor.

Israeli commentators said it was the toughest show against Rabin in the party's governing body, since Mr. Rabin took over from Foreign Minister Shimon Peres as party leader in February 1992. Mr. Peres still has strong support in the central committee.

They speculated about a fresh flare up of a Rabin-Peres feud such as the one which led to Labour's historic electoral loss in 1977 to the

right-wing Likud.

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Arabs, Marka ... 89161/15

Queen Alia Hospital ... 886100

Amal Hospital ... 674155

ZARQA:

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Home News

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 1994 3

West Bank, Jericho follow Jordan's school curricula; Gaza uses Egypt's

AMMAN (Petra) — School curricula in the occupied West Bank, including the self-rule Jericho area will continue to follow the Jordanian educational curricula while schools in Gaza Strip will follow the Egyptian system, according to Yasser Amr, head of the Palestine Higher Educational Department of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"But with help from the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), there will be a gradual reconciliation between the two systems," said Mr. Amr who has been appointed minister of higher education under the national Palestine authority.

In a statement Sunday, Mr. Amr said that the Palestinians are determined to erase the last traces of the Israeli occupation of over 27 years, and this can be achieved through an efficient educational system and in close cooperation with Jordan and Egypt.

Referring to the educational system in the occupied Arab lands, as run under the Israeli rule, Mr. Amr said that only 13 administrators were appointed to supervise the work of 22,000 teachers and 608,333 students in 1,500 schools.

This situation, coupled with Israel's repeated closure of schools over the past 27

years, clearly manifests Israel's disregard of the Palestinian people's right to education, said Mr. Amr.

"We want to retain the strongest possible ties with Jordan, and education is one of the fields in which we can achieve this end," added Mr. Amr.

Mr. Amr said his department has recently concluded agreements with UNESCO, under which the latter would finance and help carry out educational programmes in Palestinian lands, including educational radio broadcasts for students.

UNESCO has also agreed to set up a Palestinian centre for developing educational

curricula, to be financed by the Italian government, added Mr. Amr.

The department has been in contact with the commissioner general of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the Arab League Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation, as well as the Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural organisation (ISESCO) to help implement Palestinian educational plans, added Mr. Amr.

Mr. Amr said the curricula of academic and vocational training in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is bound to be at the basis of the future of the Palestinian society.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Minister, UPU official discuss cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Post and Communications Hashem Dabbas Monday held a meeting with Mohammad Balmaa, consultant on Arab affairs at the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and discussed UPU-Jordanian technical cooperation. Discussion also covered the agenda of the UPU conference due to be held in Seoul in August this year. Jordan will chair one of the conference's committees at the Seoul conference.

RJ pilots to train at Airbus in France

AMMAN (Petra) — As of the coming month Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national airline, will be sending some of its pilots to the Airbus company in France to help in the training of newly-recruited pilots serving on other airlines flying Airbus aircraft, according to an agreement reached between the Airbus company and RJ. Captain Jihad Irshid, director of RJ's operations, said that the first two of RJ's pilots will be sent on the mission to France next month, to be followed by others later on. RJ owns three Airbus planes among its 16 aircraft.

Water network in Ramtha overhauled

RAMTHA (Petra) — The Water Authority has embarked on a project for modernising the water network in the Ramtha area at the cost of JD 3,850,630. According to Water Authority Department Director in Ramtha Yousef Hijjat, a total of 172,225 metres of pipes will undergo the modernisation process which entails replacing parts of the network with new pipes. The whole project will take 730 days to complete, said Mr. Hijjat.

Smuggling attempt foiled

AMMAN (Petra) — Customs officials have foiled an attempt to smuggle 10,650 cartons of foreign-made cigarettes into Jordan through the eastern badia region, according to an official at the Customs Department Monday. He said that a number of people involved in the smuggling operations have been apprehended following a long chase and will be referred to the Customs Court for trial. He said the cigarettes seized from the smugglers were estimated to be worth JD 192,000.

QAIA southern runway closed

AMMAN (Petra) — As of Monday, the southern runway of the Queen Alia International Airport will be closed for maintenance work, according an announcement Sunday by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). The announcement said that maintenance work, to be carried out by a local Jordanian firm, will last until July 31. During the maintenance work, all aircraft will be taking off and landing at the northern runway.

Old prison becomes museum

IRBID (I.T.) — The Department of Antiquities Monday took over from the Public Security Department (PSD) an 18-century Ottoman prison that had been used as a police station for the northern region of Irbid and announced its intention to transform the complex into a popular heritage museum and a national library.

Antiquities Department Director Sufwan Tell said that the transformation process will take no less than one year to complete.

"We are embarking on the process of refurbishing and remodelling the interior of the two-storey building to achieve the targeted objective," said Dr. Tell in a statement after the handover ceremony in Irbid.

The PSD has set up its own police facilities on a plot of land donated for the purpose by the Irbid Municipality two years ago, said Dr. Tell.

The ground floor of the building will be made into a museum displaying artefacts while the first floor will serve as offices for the Antiquities Department, said Dr. Tell. He said that the building will also have a laboratory, a warehouse and maintenance units.

"The refurbished building will hopefully be turned into an integrated cultural, educational and artistic centre," said Dr. Tell, adding: "We are spending nearly JD1 million on this vital project that will help preserve Jordan's treasures for the future generations."

CORRECTION
In the June 20 issue of the Jordan Times the date for the holding of the fashion/jewellery show at the Philadelphia Hotel was erroneously given as June 23. The show will be held on June 24. The Jordan Times regrets any inconvenience.

Jordan Times
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Phosphate exports to figure high during Indian minister's visit

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan is expected to press its efforts to raise the level of Indian imports of Jordanian phosphates and other fertiliser-related products during talks with India's agriculture minister who is scheduled to begin a two-day visit to the Kingdom today.

Balram Jakhar, who is one of the leading members of the Ruling Congress Party, is arriving from Syria and his visit to the Kingdom comes in response to an invitation from the government.

In addition to Minister of Agriculture Mansour Ben Tarif and Minister of Supply Adel Qudah, other Jordanian officials scheduled to meet with Mr. Jakhar include the head of the Jordan Fertiliser Corporation and heads of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company and the Arab Potash Company.

Mr. Jakhar is a highly influential member of the government of Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, who has scored considerable success in opening up the Indian economy through innovative means that were considered taboo by previous governments in New Delhi.

One of the early measures adopted by the government was a decanalising of phosphate and potash imports and withdrawing the heavy subsidies it used to offer to fertiliser processing plants as an indirect means to encourage the farming sector.

The move meant that the state-run Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) was no longer the sole body authorised to import the items and that the private sector was free to exercise its options.

This in turn means that Jordan, which was one of the main suppliers of phosphates and potash to India, could no longer hope for Indian government agreements stipulating a minimum level of imports from the Kingdom.

Indian imports from Jordan dropped to JD65.8 million in 1993, compared with JD129 million in 1990, but

the decline was not solely related to the decanalising of phosphates and potash, industry experts say.

They say that the international phosphate market was in deep recession since 1991 when the trend to import finished fertiliser products rather than raw materials gained ground.

Adding further to exporters' problems was the "dumping prices" offered by the republics of the ex-Soviet Union, forcing a depression in prices.

Fierce competition from American suppliers complicated the situation further, the experts say. "At one point, American exporters were offering finished products at prices lower than the raw material, shutting off most exporters of rock phosphates," said one expert.

However, the situation has improved since then and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) of the ex-Soviet Union are no longer offering low prices since the governments of the republics realised that they were incurring heavy losses since the

prices they used to offer were even lower than their production and transportation costs.

Jordanian-Indian cooperation in agriculture is also expected to be reviewed during Mr. Jakhar's visit.

Although the two countries have a cooperation agreement and despite the fact that India has achieved self-sufficiency in meeting the food needs of the nearly 900 million people, Jordan has not really taken advantage of the agricultural expertise available in the sub-continent, officials say.

While in Syria, Mr. Jakhar signed an agreement with his Syrian counterpart As'ad Mustafa on agricultural cooperation, mainly in the fields of farming, irrigation and forestry. Reports from Damascus said Syria hoped to benefit from Indian expertise to help boost its agricultural production and exports. Agriculture has been one of the mainstay areas along with oil and gas for the Syrian economy in recent years.

WHAT'S GOING ON

TV5 PROGRAMME

★ A variety programme transmitted by TV5 Europe station entitled "L'heure De Verite" at the French Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.

POETRY RECITAL

★ Poetry recital by several poets at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture at 7:00 p.m.

THIRD YOUTH THEATRE FESTIVAL

★ Drama in Arabic entitled "The Patient" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:30 p.m.

NEWS HOUR

★ ABC News Highlights and McNeil-Lehrer News Hour at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Painting exhibition by Naila Deeb on the Goethe-Institut at 5:30 p.m.

★ Exhibition of paintings by Sophia Ziadeh at the Royal Cultural Centre.

- ★ Exhibition by Iraqi artists at Ab'aad Art Gallery in Mecca Street.
- ★ An art exhibition "The Form and Colour in the Arab Art Exhibition," by 16 artists from Jordan and Iraq at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of works by several Arab artists at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel. 695291).
- ★ Exhibition by artist Mohammad Fradi at the Orlfali Art Gallery in Umm Utheina (Tel. 826932).
- ★ Child Needs Expo at the International Motor Exhibition, Airport Highway (Tel. 653836).
- ★ Exhibition of photographs by artist Mohammad Al Baddawi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition by plastic artist Shawkat Al Alousi at the Alia Art Gallery (Tel. 672872).
- ★ Exhibition on the development of "Le Louvre" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Painting exhibition by artist George Bahjouri at Al Balqa Art Gallery (Tel. 720677).
- ★ Painting exhibition by Jordanian artist Abdul Ra'uf Sham'eun at Darat Al Funan of the Abdil Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Linweibdeh. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.
Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4
Telex: 21497 ALRAJ JO
Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Heading for stronger ties

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's summit meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton tomorrow has already been dubbed as the beginning of a new era in the U.S.-Jordanian relations. Much work has already been done to clear the cobwebs that lately afflicted decades of excellent relations between the two countries. It is fair to say that Washington and Amman have restored their traditional relationship after the reversal of the slide in their ties that ensued in the aftermath of Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait.

Explaining Jordan's perspective on the Gulf conflict was relatively easier to accomplish at the level of the two countries' leaderships. Former U.S. President George Bush and incumbent President Bill Clinton appear to have understood Jordan's explanation for its stand during that conflict. It was an entirely different story when it came to dealing with the U.S. Congress, which continued to refuse to accept Jordan's reasoning. Now it seems that both sides understand each other much better not only with regard to the past but also in connection with the current and future peace talks in the Middle East.

The resolution of the Aqaba dispute a few weeks ago signalled the beginning of the end of the mutual mistrust between the two countries and laid the foundation for more progress in the two countries' bilateral relations. Israel's belated agreement to discuss the fundamental points on the Jordanian-Israeli peace agenda, demarcation of borders and water rights, put the Israeli-Jordanian peace talks on track once again. This culminated in the breakthrough in the peace negotiations between the two countries, registered two weeks ago, and vindicated Jordan's stance as a staunch and long time supporter of peace in the region.

All these positive developments prepared the stage for a fresh start in the American-Jordanian relations. It is not accident that the World Bank has been showing greater appreciation for Jordan's efforts to reconstruct its economy on a balanced basis taking into consideration not only raw economic and monetary considerations but also social and political factors as well. Jordan's foreign debt especially with the U.S. awaits reasonable treatment commensurate with the Kingdom's role in pushing forward the peace process.

For sure there will be other topics on the minds of the two leaders touching not only on bilateral relations but also on regional matters as well. Jordan has enjoyed friendly ties with the U.S. in the past and is determined, through the efforts of the King and his aides now in Washington, to bolster and strengthen these relations for the interest of a better future for the Middle East region and its people.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR daily Monday demanded a very strong U.S. support for the Jordanian bid to achieve a lasting settlement for the Middle East conflict and commitment to help ensure the success of the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations to help the Kingdom regain its rights. The paper said that Jordan is not seeking only an end to hostilities but a permanent peace, stability and prosperity for the peoples of this region, said the paper. Stressing that the American role is indispensable at this stage, the paper said that peace for the Middle East should be sustainable and acceptable for the future generations. The paper said in this context, Jordan's economic and financial needs should be taken into consideration and the country's economic projects should be supported by all means. This, it said, can be done through alleviating Jordan's huge financial burdens which resulted from its shouldering the consequences of many regional conflicts over the past decades. The paper expressed hope that the meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and President Bill Clinton would deal with these issues and give fresh impetus to the Arab-Israeli peace process.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Monday contrasted the positions of the Arab countries neighbouring Iraq and Libya, and those neighbouring North Korea, saying that while Washington has succeeded in imposing sanctions on the two Arab states, it has failed to apply the pattern in the case of North Korea. Tareq Masarweh said that not only the Korean people on both sides of the border showed determination to foil U.S. plots against their nation, but also the Chinese and the Japanese refused to see America extending hegemony on their region. This is how Washington's conspiracy has come to an end, he said. Referring to the situation in the Arab World, the writer said that only Turkey among the neighbours of Iraq and Libya has raised its voice loud demanding a resumption of trade with Iraq, largely because Ankara has sustained heavy economic losses as a result of the Gulf war. He said that though all Iraqi and Libyan Arab neighbours have faced economic losses as a result of the U.S. and international sanctions on Iraq and Libya nothing has been done on the part of the Arab World to end this situation or alleviate the sufferings of the Iraqi and Libyan peoples.

The View From Fourth Circle

By Rami G. Khouri

Petra's third — and last? millennium

ONE OF the distinct honours of Jordan is to be the custodian of the ancient city of Petra — truly one of the most spectacular legacies of ancient history in the entire world. Forged jointly by the hand of God and the passion of man, Petra is not only a stunning touristic attraction; it is also a dramatic and timeless monument celebrating cross-cultural interaction among peoples from different ancient civilisations.

I raise the subject of Petra today because, to put it bluntly, Petra stands on the brink of possible grave danger, if protective policies are not implemented quickly and diligently. Only in the past year, with the rise in the number of visitors to Petra, has the scale of the danger become clear. With the opening of several new small hotels and the expansion of the resthouse and the Petra Forum Hotel, it is not unusual to see several thousand visitors in Petra every day during the high season. On some days, nearly 1500 tourists pass through the Siq every hour, along with horses and guides.

This kind of pressure already threatens the delicate natural environment of Petra; it also makes a visit to the site rather unpleasant, given the congestion that is assured with such numbers. The urgency of addressing Petra's protection needs stems from the fact that by 1977 Petra will have a total of 19 hotels, with 1400 rooms and 2800 beds. In the high season then, the ancient city can expect to receive between 3,000 and 5,000 visitors a day, and as many as half million per year.

There are serious environmental and social implications of tourism pressures of this kind, and they need to be addressed today, before it is too late. They should have been addressed several years ago, before all the new hotels were approved and licensed, but it is still not too late to deal with the problems and the degradation that will certainly arise if, indeed, we reach the point in a few years' time where over half a million tourists visit Petra every year. Even with the new hotels, if we take sensible decisions today we can minimise the environmental damage, allow tourists to enjoy their visit and maximise the income that flows to Jordanians and others involved in the tourism business.

The government seems to be aware of some of these issues, and it recently established a higher committee for Petra. The committee quickly came up with a plan that calls for expenditures of around JD 13 million to provide the infrastructure needed to cope with the rising number of tourists in the near future. That plan is now before the cabinet for approval and funding.

The Department of Antiquities, for its part, with the assistance of the Petra National Trust and some other bodies, has succeeded in having the main area of the Petra antiquities designated as a national park. This should assure that the ancient monuments themselves are protected from damage from construction or other commercial activity.

UNESCO, upon the invitation of the Jordanian government, has also been working with Jordanian public and private institutions to devise a masterplan for the Petra region. Others in the country and abroad are also investigating different aspects of Petra's natural, economic and social environment, sometimes without sufficient coordination with each other.

There seems to be a general recognition now that Petra

needs a single authority, like the Jordan Valley or Aqaba Region authorities, to oversee the development of the area and to assure the protection of its natural and archaeological assets. I would like to suggest, however, that the Petra higher committee plan now before the cabinet should be subjected to much more rigorous studies, and to greater cross-checking with the UNESCO plan and other studies and projects already underway in the Petra area.

The expansion of Petra's infrastructure to cope with rising tourist demand, without fully assessing the full social, environmental, economic and political impact of such expansion, will certainly lead to enormous, perhaps irreversible, damage in the future. The single most important decision that has to be made vis-a-vis tourism development in Petra still has not been made. It is simply this: under optimum conditions, how many people can visit Petra every day, or every hour, without causing great discomfort to themselves, damage to the environment or degradation of the social fabric of the inhabitants of the Wadi Mousa/Umm Sa'houn area?

"If we see foreign tourists mainly as a source of income, and we see our archaeological treasures mainly as the key that unlocks the money box, then we are probably doomed to go down in history as a people who lacked the political resolve, cultural depth, and national self-confidence to withstand the assault of an army of tourists waving their wallets."

Once this decision is made, on the basis of studies and technical expertise that are available in Jordan, we can then decide how best to move tourists in and out of Petra, and how to provide the essential services they need, such as transport, water, restaurants, toilets, refreshments kiosks and souvenir stands.

The expansion and infrastructural plans now proposed to the cabinet are sensible, if we are sure that Petra can handle up to 5000 visitors a day — but we are not sure of this number. I and many others concerned about Petra are not convinced that this issue has been settled, or even sufficiently discussed. We find ourselves today in an embarrassing and even ridiculous situation: We race to build new infrastructural facilities in order to meet the demands of visitors who will fill hotels that were licensed and built with very little proper planning.

If we made a mistake by licensing so many new hotels without adequately considering the consequences in terms of water, waste, sewerage, parking land use, congestion and other such factors, we should not make a bigger mistake

today by recklessly providing the new facilities that will turn the possibility of an environmental and cultural nightmare into a certainty.

Blind infrastructural expansion propelled by the private sector's insatiable appetite for short-term profits increases the likelihood that Jordan and Jordanians today will go down in history as having unceremoniously presided over the inauguration of Petra's third — and last — millennium. This would be not only sad, but foolish, and very much alien to the best Jordanian cultural and national traditions.

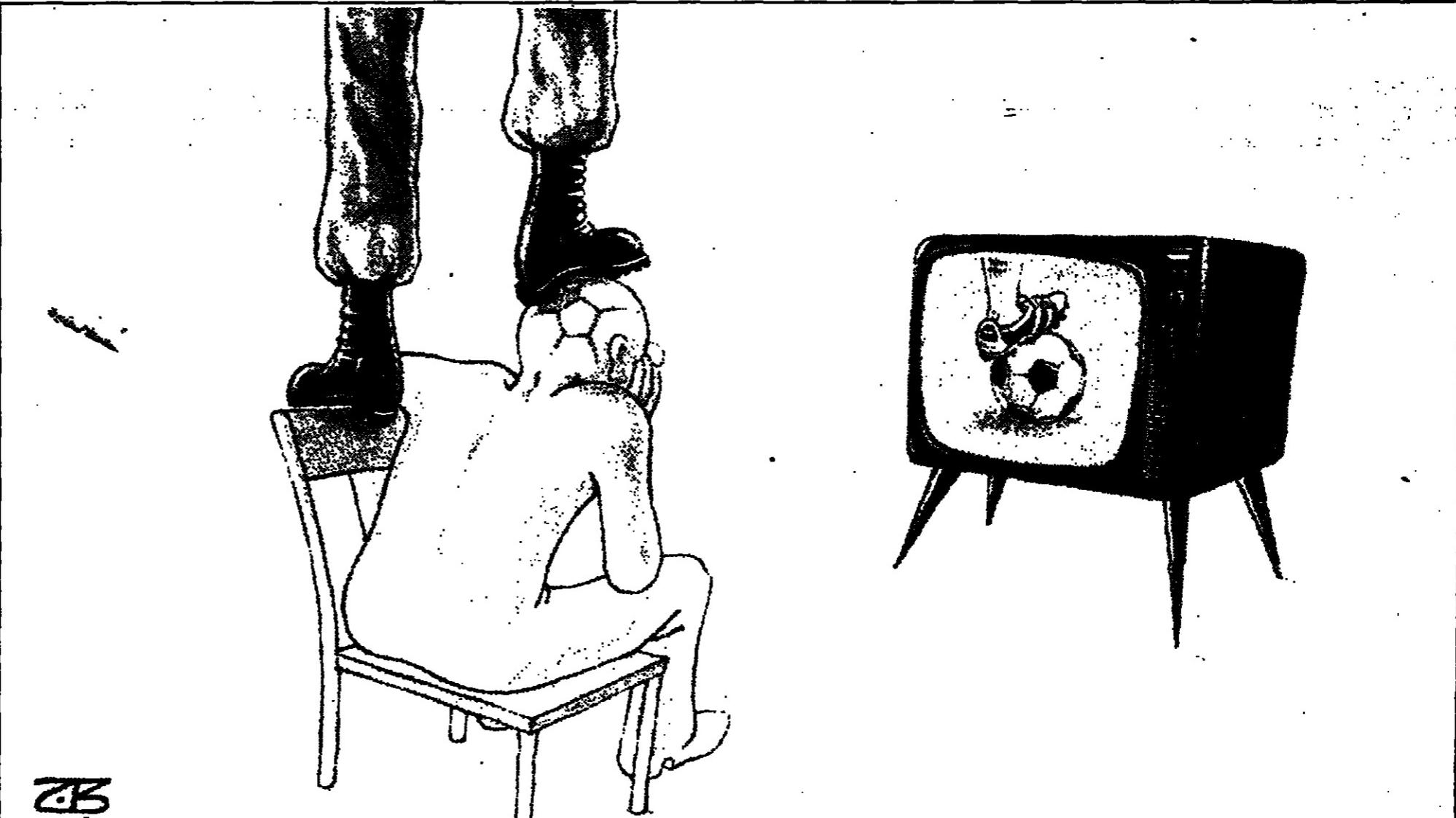
The tourism and antiquities officials of Jordan have taken important steps towards addressing some of these issues, but they cannot undertake the task on their own because the government has not given them sufficient resources to do the job. The intense commercial and political pressures for unlimited touristic expansion will overwhelm the most dedicated and resolute civil servant. Our tourism and antiquities officials need our public support and assistance if they are to meet the enormous challenge that has been placed in their hands. The government has not given tourism and antiquities the political or the financial means to do the job. In previous years, this did not matter much because the modest number of tourists was relatively manageable, and the sites were not threatened.

Today, the situation has changed very quickly, and it will change even faster in the wake of an Arab-Israeli peace accord. The struggle to save Petra until now has been undertaken quietly, but the turning point we stand at today demands greater public discussion of this issue. Decisions made in the next several months will determine the fate of Petra, perhaps forever. It is important that the decisions be made on the basis of wisdom, sensitivity and a realistic balance between environmental and economic interests.

The grandeur and beauty of Petra is a consequence of deep cultural interaction and artistic synthesis in ancient times, reflecting the coming together of individuals, cultures and traditions from all around the Mediterranean Basin. We need to reaffirm that dynamic today in our collective efforts to identify the dangers that Petra faces, and to remove them one by one. Petra developed because the people of ancient Jordan interacted in partnership and mutual benefit with people from other lands and cultures. We would commit a grievous historical error if we abandoned this honourable Jordanian legacy, and instead pandered only to the base commercial instincts of those who would use our rich cultural heritage merely to entertain visitors from abroad.

The full challenge of preserving Petra is not only about monuments an stones. It is also about saving ourselves from the dangers of runaway materialism and commercialism. Tourism is an opportunity for people from different cultures to meet, to learn from one another, and to be mutually enriched by the great drama of human diversity. That is how Petra came to be, and that is how we must make sure that it makes it through the next millennium.

If we see foreign tourists mainly as a source of income, and we see our archaeological treasures mainly as the key that unlocks the money box, then we are probably doomed to go down in history as a people who lacked the political resolve, cultural depth, and national self-confidence to withstand the assault of an army of tourists waving their wallets.



French move could lead to more bloodshed in Rwanda

By Jonathan Clayton
Reuters

KIGALI — France's proposed military action to stop the slaughter in Rwanda could lead to more bloodshed and hamper efforts to find a long-term solution to the central African country's crisis.

Rwandan rebels, who are winning the war against government troops, are deeply distrustful of Paris. They say its hands are bloodied by its support for the former government of slain president Juvenal Habyarimana.

"It is not for the French to intervene, it is for us to do ourselves," rebel spokesman Major Wilson Gumiisiriza said last week.

He was speaking a few days after his men took Gitarama, former seat of a self-declared government of Habyarimana loyalists. The victory opened up the road to the rebels' last remaining bases in the south of the country.

Major-General Romeo Dallaire, military commander of the small U.N. force in Rwanda, said the RPF had since pushed on and said he was surprised by the

is designed to deprive them of this, the RPF has said it will meet any French presence with force.

It is no idle threat. The rebel army, believed to be about 14,000 strong, is a well-equipped, highly-disciplined force with long experience of battlefield combat.

"If they come to fight then we will fight them. You should understand that the French are the ones who have been training militia and government forces," Major Wilson Gumiisiriza said last week.

He was speaking a few days after his men took Gitarama, former seat of a self-declared government of Habyarimana loyalists. The victory opened up the road to the rebels' last remaining bases in the south of the country.

Major-General Romeo Dallaire, military commander of the small U.N. force in Rwanda, said the RPF had since pushed on and said he was surprised by the

spread of their advance which they say is the only way of saving their mainly tutsi followers.

He said RPF leader Paul Kagame had made his movement's position clear in a meeting last Thursday.

"They (U.N. political representatives) met with the chairman who stated categorically they would resist the French. That position has not changed," Mr. Dallaire told reporters on Sunday.

Mr. Dallaire, who has been calling for more U.N. troops, would make no further comment on possible French military action which President Francois Mitterrand said on Saturday could take place "within days."

The rebel's suspicion of France is based on material and financial support Paris

will act. Every hour counts and it is now only a question of hours and days," Mr. Mitterrand said.

"Increasingly savage fighting is taking place and one can no longer wait... this is a matter of great urgency."

France, which wants to spearhead an international force comprising units from other African and European countries, has circu-

lated its plan for endorsement by the U.N. Security Council.

It is calling for a Chapter Seven operation authorising the use of force but other details of how and from where it would operate are unknown.

"Whatever happens, we

gave until last summer to Habyarimana's government.

Many recall with bitterness how a French force of 300 was flown to the country to bolster a government army crumbling in the face of the rebels' first drive to the capital in October 1990.

Paris denies its forces fought the rebels but several independent witnesses said they saw French sol-

diers manning roadblocks and helping government troops defend the front line.

The French troops only left in the summer of 1993 after the RPF signed a peace accord with Habyarimana.

Mr. Habyarimana was supposed to set up a broad-based government and then hold multi-party elections

but instead his French-trained troops armed and equipped Hutu militias as a second force.

After his death, militiamen slaughtered all his political opponents and turned on members of the minority Tutsi from which the rebels draw most of their support.

The militias, fed on virulent anti-RPF propaganda, blamed Belgium for shooting down Habyarimana's plane as he returned from a regional summit in Tanzania on April 6, but are suspicious of most Western nations.

"French intervention would add another complicating factor, it could be disastrous at both the humanitarian and political level," said one political analyst.

A U.N. military observer from an African country said militiamen he had met at roadblocks on trips out of the capital were increasingly hostile to all "white people".

"Rwandan rebels, who are its hands are bloodied by its support for the former government troops, are deeply distrustful of Paris. They say Juvenal Habyarimana."

JOHN IN LONDON

JTD, 21 JUN



REVERSING THE EXODUS: Host countries and international agencies expect difficult times trying to convince Vietnamese refugees to return to their homeland (GAMA photo)

Camp suicides highlight hardcore boat-people problem

By John Rogers
Reuter

HANOI — Suicides, mass hunger-strikes and agitation in Asia's camps for Vietnamese boat people have underscored how hard it will be to clear the detention centres in the next 18 months.

Pressure to return to Vietnam is expected to increase on the estimated 48,000 Vietnamese likely not to win refugee status, though governments and international agencies are resolved to use persuasion rather than force.

Positions appear likely to harden as the battle for the hearts and minds of the boat people heats up between now and the end of 1995, the informal deadline set by Western and Asian governments to clear the economy develops.

"We have to find ways to make propaganda in the camps and encourage them to see the real situation here and come back," said Tran Van Thinh, deputy head of the Foreign Ministry's Consular Department.

For added credibility, Hanoi is considering sending some of the 62,000 boat people who have returned since 1989 back to the camps to tell friends about life at home, he says.

But hardcore anti-Communist activists have stepped up efforts to stop people returning.

Western and Asian governments vowed publicly for the first time at a Bangkok meeting in June to take action against people in the camps working against voluntary repatriation.

"It was recognised that there was organised resistance in some areas to repatriation and it would seem that some of it was coordinated from the outside," an official of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Hanoi said.

"There are pressure groups and lobbying groups in some Western countries, especially the United States, who are agitating on

behalf of people in the first-asylum countries."

Agitation increased after the 30-odd governments working under the 1989 Comprehensive Plan for Action (CPA), sponsored by the UNHCR, resolved last February to make the end of 1995 the target date to resolve the boat people issue.

Most of the trouble has been in Hong Kong, where about 27,000 boat people remain in camps, nearly half the total.

Thousands of boat people have gone on hunger-strikes and in April more than 200 were injured in a police raid to remove 1,500 inmates from whitehead camps.

In Indonesia, two people died from self-immolation — a historic form of political protest in Vietnam — and at least six others tried to disembowel themselves.

They were protesting against an agreement between Hanoi and Jakarta last October for the "orderly return" of boat people which activists say could mean deportation.

The UNHCR official in Hanoi said lobbyists were encouraging boat people in the camps to challenge screening decisions which denied them refugee status.

"They are basically saying 'stick it out and the decision will be changed. We will see that it is,'" the official said.

Screening of boat people for refugee status has been completed camps in the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia, is closed to completion in Thailand and is due to end in Hong Kong by September.

The CPA countries resolved in Bangkok that screening decisions would not be reviewed.

Bangkok's message to people in the camps was — if you're not a political refugee, then decide now to go back to Vietnam because that decision is not going to change.

"Those who win refugee status will eventually get new homes elsewhere," a Hanoi diplomat said. "But those judged to be economic migrants have to face the fact that Vietnam is home."

Against this background, programmes to aid the voluntary return of boat people are winding down.

The European Community International Programme (ECIP), which gives credits and funds resettlement programmes for returnees, finishes at the end of November.

A Scandinavian scheme, Nordic Assistance to Repatriated Vietnamese (NARV), winds up by the end of 1994.

After turning the screws, the Bangkok meeting decided that Asian countries will announce target dates for closing each camp as soon as possible.

Governments were told at Bangkok that they should actively promote repatriation.

"Countries which have taken a stronger role, like Thailand, have had a higher rate of return," the UNHCR official said.

Remittances sent by relatives in the West will be curbed wherever it is legal to do so. Funds could be kept in escrow accounts for boat people to collect when they go home.

Vietnam says it is happy to receive boat people who volunteer to return and is stepping up interviewing procedures in the camps. Hanoi insists international financial help is essential.

But newer, higher-profile crises such as Rwanda and Bosnia are sucking up scarce funds.

"It was impressed on the governments that they had better get these people back or there won't be any money to pay for it," the UNHCR official said.

Vietnamese left their country in rickety fishing boats during the 1970s and 1980s to escape what they regarded as persecution after Communist forces won the Vietnam war in 1975 or, in the 1980s, to escape poverty.

Most of the former group were southerners who pitched up in camps in Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia or Singapore. Most of the economic refugees were northerners who ended up in Hong Kong.

The exodus has slowed to a trickle now that political and economic conditions have improved in Vietnam.

Most people now leaving are enticed by false rumours that Japan will pay them large sums of money to go home if they reach the Japanese coast.

Mubarak orchestrates anti-militant campaign

By Samia Nakhoul
Reuter

Muslim Brotherhood movement.

A turning-point was the death of Talaat Yassin Hammam, the leader of a military wing of the militant Gama Al Islamiya (Islamic Group), in a raid on his Cairo flat on April 25.

"The militants are not in a strong position. They have been hit from all sides. Many have gone underground, their leaders have either been killed or are in prison," said a Western diplomat who follows the movement closely.

"Since the death of Talaat Yassin the violence has indeed stopped... it seems the Gama'a thought of taking a respite. It could be to reorganise themselves," he told Reuters.

"But what I believe is that in the Gama'a there are thousands of Yassin Hammams. Every time they kill a militant they say he was a key leader in the military branch and we always found that others appear again," he added. "I don't expect this campaign will stop."

Muslim fundamentalist groups in Egypt, including the Muslim Brotherhood itself, have a history of

bouncing back from defeat, but sometimes only after a gap of several years.

Abdul Halim Mandour, a lawyer close to the wider Islamist movement, said that the calm was probably only temporary and that the government's campaign against the Muslim Brotherhood and other groups could eventually backfire.

"The Brotherhood is tougher. The Brotherhood are powerful and influential. They are ingrained secretly in many syndicates, and spread in villages and towns. They are more dangerous. They are very well organised and not public. They have economic superiority. When the Brotherhood decides to confront they will be extremely violent," he said.

The Brotherhood, unlike the Gama'a and other groups like Jihad, does not publicly advocate violence to achieve its objective of a strict Islamic state in Egypt.

But political and diplomatic sources say that in recent confessions violent militants have revealed links between their movements and the Brotherhood.

The authorities have since taken an increasingly strong stand against the Brotherhood, arresting many members and sum-

moning its 8-year-old spiritual leader, Hamed Abu Nasr, for questioning about leaflets which they say he wrote.

The Brotherhood has further angered the government by mobilising lawyers behind protests against the death of a prominent Islamic lawyer in police custody in April.

In April police used tear-gas and rubber bullets to thwart an attempt by lawyers to march on the presidential palace. They arrested at least 27 lawyers and 17 remain in custody.

In its revived campaign against the Brotherhood, the government reopened a 1992 case in which a computer company close to the Brotherhood was accused of planning to overthrow the government and seize power. Nine members were arrested in the case earlier this month.

President Hosni Mubarak and Interior Minister

Hassan Al Alfi have both spoken out against the Brotherhood, which has been officially banned by late President Jamal Abdul Nasser after plotting to kill him. In practice the Brotherhood has been tolerated as platform for religious activists since the early 1970s.

Other victims of the government's latest campaign have been some lawyers who, far from being Islamists, are secularists, human rights activists and members of small leftist parties.

"The object may be simply to instill fear, this is a police state operation, fear is fear, intimidation and terror play a role in keeping your friends off balance," one diplomat said.

Newspapers which pose no obvious threat to the government have also suffered. The authorities have banned the weekly Middle East Times for the fifth week running.



Hosni Mubarak

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THE INDIAN SUB
CONTINENT

Economy

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Financial Markets		Jordan Times			
		in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank			
U.S. Dollar in International Markets					
Currency	Yesterday's Close	Tokyo Close			
Date	17/6/94	20/6/94			
Sterling Pound	1.5345	1.5323			
Deutsche Mark	1.6095	1.6110			
Swiss Franc	1.3552	1.3580			
French Franc	5,5005	5,5050 **			
Japanese Yen	102.69	102.56			
European Currency Unit	1,1928	1,1917 **			
USD Per STC					
European Opening = 1000 a.m. 1/6/94					
Foreign Interest Rates					
Current	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS		
U.S. Dollar	4.06	4.31	4.62		
Sterling Pound	4.68	4.81	5.12		
Deutsche Mark	4.75	4.75	4.75		
Swiss Franc	4.00	4.12	4.25		
French Franc	5.25	5.31	5.43		
Japanese Yen	1.87	1.93	2.06		
European Currency Unit	5.81	5.88	5.93		
Per 100					
Other Currencies					
Currency	Bid	Offer	Date: 20/6/94		
Bahrain Dinar	1,8170	1,8300			
Lebanese Lira	0,040175	0,041590			
Saudi Riyal	0,16300	0,18480			
Kuwaiti Dinar	2,3270	2,3850			
Qatari Riyal	0,18710	0,18850			
Egyptian Pound	0,2010	0,2250			
Omani Riyal	1,7750	1,7910			
UAE Dirham	0,18760	0,18950			
Greek Drachma	0,2760	0,3115			
Cypriot Pound	1,3325	1,3960			
Per 100					
LONDON EXCHANGE RATES					
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.					
U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3920/30	Canadian dollar			
1.6052/62	Deutschmarks	Dutch guilders			
1.7990/00	Swiss francs	Belgian francs			
1.3480/90	French francs	Italian lire			
33.05/09	Japanese yen	Swedish crowns			
5.4870/20	Norwegian crowns	Danish crowns			
1586.6/8.1	One sterling	One ounce of gold			
102.22/27	\$389.80/390.30	\$389.80/390.30			
7.7600/00					
6.9930/80					
6.3080/30					
1.5354/64					
Japanese Yen					
0.6726					
Gold	391.25	7.70	Silver 5.60		
21 Karat					
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin	Bid	Offer	Date: 20/6/94		
Currency					
U.S. Dollar	0.6910	0.6930			
Sterling Pound	1.0577	1.0630			
Deutsche Mark	0.4287	0.4308			
Swiss Franc	0.5086	0.5111			
French Franc	0.1255	0.1261			
Japanese Yen	0.6726	0.6762			
Metals	USD/oz	JD/Gm ²	Metals	USD/oz	JD/Gm ²
Gold	391.25	7.70	Silver	5.60	0.1255

Uzbekistan details currency plans

TASHKENT (R) — Uzbekistan has said it would issue a new currency on July 1, but it has won no financial backing from international institutions and analysts said economic conditions were unfavourable for the move.

Islam Karimov, president of this conservative former Soviet republic, called the new currency "sacred." He also decreed measures to protect vulnerable members of society and to encourage export-oriented firms.

"The national currency, the flag, the anthem and the constitution are symbols of the state and its people and are sacred attributes of independence," the official Narodnoye Slovo newspaper quoted Mr. Karimov as saying.

But Western analysts said the foundations of support for the new som currency were insufficient in this import-dependent nation where inflation is far higher than bank interest rates.

Istvan Szalkai, representative of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Tashkent, said the IMF had not yet reached agreement to provide financial support for the new currency.

"We have not been involved directly in the introduction of the national currency," he said.

Uzbek officials have said they were hoping for between \$140 million and \$160 million from the IMF to back the new money. The World Bank has also been preparing a \$180 million loan, including balance of payments assistance.

But the conditions of faster free market reforms attached to the two loans have so far been too much for Uzbekistan to stomach, although negotiations are continuing.

Western analysts said that without economic restructuring, the new currency of this Central Asian state of 22 million people was likely to encounter severe difficulties.

An annualised inflation rate of 1,500 per cent in the first four months of 1994 suggests the new currency will struggle to hold its value against the dollar, they said.

Negative real interest rates add to inflationary pressure. Twelve-month bank deposit rates in Uzbekistan's Savings Bank range from 20 to 100 per cent and inter-bank loan rates are set at 200 per cent.

Uzbekistan runs a considerable trade deficit, a factor likely to increase demand for foreign currencies.

Officials said the som — a colourful banknote depicting the architectural splendours of Samarkand — would be issued at one to 1,000 of the currency it is replacing, the som coupon.

But Mr. Karimov, rather than decreeing measures to tighten money supply before the currency launch, Saturday unveiled a gamut of new welfare payments.

Kuwaiti deputies want spending cuts

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti parliamentary panel is seeking spending cuts rather than taxation or privatisation to trim the 1994/95 budget deficit, a newspaper said Monday.

"We have decided to start

this year by cutting government expenditure," Adnan Abdul Samad, a member of parliament's financial and economic affairs committee, was quoted as saying in an interview with the English-language Arab Times.

The emirate's proposed 1994/95 budget shows a deficit of 2.1 billion dinars (\$7 billion), a 40 per cent increase on the amount initially forecast for 1993/94.

The committee is due to submit comments about the government's budget plans to parliament before the plenary assembly debates them shortly. The budget takes effect on July 1.

"Both privatisation and taxation require passing new legislation," he said. The committee decided to act "within the existing laws... and this is for this year," he added.

Mr. Abdul Samad reiterated that taxation and privatisation were being considered by the committee as means of increasing state revenue.

But, "the principle at this stage is that salaries of civil servants will be touched (reduced)," he noted.

Kuwaiti voters are used to a generous welfare state which provides public services free or at minimal cost and government jobs for virtually all nationals who want one.

The emirate relies on its shrinking overseas investments to cover the mushrooming deficit. Heavy Gulf war-related payments halved foreign reserves and worries over Iraq have further slowed business activity.

Members of parliament have warned that continuous withdrawals from state reserves would jeopardise the future of the small Gulf state.

The economic committee of the emirate's Supreme Planning Council said that without reforming the state-orchestrated economy the budget deficit would grow by almost 50 per cent by the year 2000 and the dinar would be seriously affected.

The committee in a report published in Al Qabas newspaper recommended "the rationalisation of (public) wages allocations... and cancelling government subsidies on some programmes," as means of trimming budget deficit.

Among other measures it recommended were reviewing the structure of customs charges and repricing public services and studying the possibilities of imposing an effective taxation system on the dividends of companies and at a later stage the income of citizens.

Income tax is as yet unknown in the emirate. Company tax is levied only on foreign firms.

A parliamentary panel was reported on Sunday as saying that Kuwait's future was threatened by growing budget deficit but the extent of the danger was not understood by government.

If the parliament and the cabinet do not tackle this problem in a serious and strict manner it will expose Kuwait's future to economic and social dangers," Al Seyasseh newspaper quoted a report by parliament's financial and economic affairs committee as saying.

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U.N. reports major violations of fragile ceasefire in Bosnia

SARAJEVO (R) — Major violations of the fragile 10-day-old truce in Bosnia were reported by the United Nations Monday only hours after Bosnian Serbs threatened to launch a decisive counter-offensive against their Muslim foes.

The U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokesman in Sarajevo, Commander Eric Chaperon, said there had been artillery duels but there was no evidence of preparations for large-scale infantry operations.

He said UNPROFOR was aware of media reports of fighting, adding: "Obviously there are major violations of the truce."

Maj. Chaperon said there was "no confirmed evidence of ground fighting or preparations for major ground attacks."

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic told Reuters late Sunday that the Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) would launch a "counter-offensive

identical to that in Gorazde" if Muslim attacks on the Mount Ozren area did not stop.

An unnamed senior BSA office backed the threat, saying his forces would drop their policy of "passive defense" in the event of further Muslim attacks, the Serb News Agency (SRNA) said.

Serbs halted their fierce assault on the Muslim enclave of Gorazde in eastern Bosnia in April only after NATO threatened to strike against Serb positions.

Maj. Karadzic said thousands of Serb civilians had fled the Muslim offensive which he said was aimed at securing control of a strategic road in central Bosnia.

The road cuts across a long finger of mountainous terrain under Serb control but surrounded on three sides by forces of the Bosnian government.

The Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug, said a number of Serb civilians had been killed

and injured by Bosnian army shelling of the frontline village of Vozuca. It reported inhabitants fleeing en masse.

Bosnian Serb Television said the Muslims had taken some territory near Vozuca but no key positions had been lost. It said the military situation was critical.

Earlier BSA sources told Reuters Muslim troops had broken through defences and taken a number of strategic hilltops to the west of Vozuca.

Maj. Chaperon said 150 artillery detonations were recorded Sunday in the Doboj area on the foot of Mount Ozren.

He said a BSA liaison officer reported a supply convoy was ambushed some 10 kilometres south of Gorazde town. Two BSA soldiers were reported killed and two others wounded in the attack.

Tanjug said Muslims fired 60 mortars on Serb positions around Brcko straddling the

northern Bosnia-Sunday supply route in northern Bosnia-Sunday.

Maj. Chaperon said 100 detonations with anti-air and machinegun fire were recorded in the Gradacac-Posavina corridor.

The U.N. is still struggling to secure compliance with a temporary one-month ceasefire, agreed earlier this month and intended to prepare both sides to accept a long-term peace plan now being finalised by diplomats.

The plan is expected to stand or fall on the details of a map of Bosnia's ethnic division that will give the Muslim and Croat Bosnian Federation 51 per cent of the country and Serbs the rest.

The Serbs have won control of 70 per cent of Bosnia and diplomats believe it would be almost impossible to force them to relinquish that much territory, especially in the Posavina corridor linking Serb-held parts of western Bosnia and Croatia with Serbia.

With 97 per cent of ballots



Colombian president-elect Ernesto Samper acknowledges a crowd of followers at a convention centre moments before announcing his victory over his opponent, Andres Pastrana (AFP photo).

Samper elected Colombia president

BOGOTA (AP) — Colombians elected a survivor of an assassination attempt Sunday to be their next president and steer the nation from an era of terror to one many hope will bring an economic benefit of all.

With Mr. Samper ahead by 114,000 votes and 100,000 votes uncounted, it was an insurmountable lead.

Ernesto Samper, an economist and candidate of the ruling Liberal Party, edged former TV newscaster Andres Pastrana, who also barely survived the Medellin cocaine cartel's reign of terror, by one of the narrowest margins in Colombia's history. According to election returns,

"We have before us a window of opportunity we will take advantage of for the

Moroccan in shooting drama

BRUSSELS (AFP) — A young Moroccan suffered shotgun wounds at Verviers Sunday during clashes involving up to 400 people following Belgium's 1-0 World Cup win over Morocco. A town official blamed a right-wing activist for the incident in the south of the country. He added the victim, who was hit three times, was not in danger. A policeman received a head injury and eight people were questioned, he added. Other incidents between Belgians and Moroccan residents were reported in Antwerp, where 17 people were questioned, and Brussels, where police closed off a section of the city centre during the trouble.

A tribute to the dead in Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Mozart's Requiem rang out through the bombed-out National Library in Sarajevo Sunday, as local and international singers and musicians paid tribute to the dead, giving hope to the living. Armoured vehicles ringed the library, their guns pointing up into the nearby front lines of the Bosnian Serb sector, and an anti-sniper force deployed around the building. Spanish tenor Jose Carreras and the former conductor of the New York Philharmonic Zubin Mehta joined members of the Sarajevo choir and orchestra for the performance. The Requiem was chosen as a homage to the 10,000 killed in Sarajevo and the tens of thousands killed elsewhere in a country over the past two years, organisers said. Filmed by Bosnian television and retransmitted live on a dozen foreign stations, the rights to the broadcast were sold to make money for the reconstruction of the city, they said. The audience was kept small in the confined ruins of the library. Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic and the British commander of the U.N. forces in Bosnia, General Michael Rose attended but the public was kept away. The area has been largely quiet since the Serbs were persuaded to withdraw their heavy weapons from around the town at the end of February, U.N. officials said.

When polls opened Sunday, President Cesar Gaviria — who is limited to a single term — urged the 17 million registered voters to take advantage of the nation's new climate of peace and cast ballots in high numbers.

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World News

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 1994 9

N. Ireland Protestants urged to embrace peace process

DUBLIN (R) — Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring urged Northern Ireland's Protestant politicians to support an Anglo-Irish peace drive to end "inane" sectarian killings such as Saturday's massacre of World Cup fans.

Mr. Spring, the deputy prime minister, expressed his "awful sense of revulsion" at the way Protestant UVF guerrillas cut down six innocent Catholics watching Ireland's 1-0 win over Italy in a country pub in Loughlinish.

"All Irish people must feel a sense of shame because of the barbarous cruelty in which these people were shot down, while innocently watching a moment of joy for the country in the World Cup," he told the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

The outlawed Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) is killing Catholics at random to sabotage any attempt by Dublin to forge closer links with the British-ruled province envisaged by the six-month-old Anglo-Irish peace plan.

Sources close to the UVF and sister groups say they are determined to derail any attempt in the plan to involve Sinn Fein, political wing of Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas fighting to end British rule of the province.

Mr. Spring appealed to Northern Ireland's Protestant political leaders who want to maintain its 300-year-old union with Britain to back Anglo-Irish efforts to reconvene cross-border peace talks involving all concerned parties.

The so-called three-stranded talks have been in limbo since 1992 but Britain and Ireland are hoping to relaunch them later this year and to get both Protestant and Republican gunmen to end the killing and join the negotiations.

"I would hope that we can recommend the three-stranded talks in a very short period of time. We have got to overcome the baggage of history we all share on this island to sit down together across the table and see if we can reach conclusions."

Mr. Spring's remarks were aimed at Northern Ireland's two main Unionist Protestant political parties which want the province to stay part of Britain and which are deeply suspicious of Irish involvement in any talks about their future.

He called on Unionist politicians to try to persuade the 60 per cent Protestant majority that peace moves did not threaten their British status and that there would be no forced attempt to reunite Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic.

"There should be no fear of coercion or threat from the Republic of Ireland and they should be able to come and have discussions with us free from any fear," Mr. Spring said.

The mainstream Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) has given the initiative only grudging support while the hardline Democratic Unionist Party of Ian Paisley vocally opposes any part for the Dublin government in Northern Ireland's affairs.

The weekend killing was staged at an emotionally-charged moment when millions across the island were glued to their television sets to watch the only team in the British and Irish islands to take part in the World Cup in the United States.

It was also timed to harden attitudes by leaders of the IRA and Sinn Fein, who are due to give their final verdict in the next three weeks on the Anglo-Irish Downing Street Declaration.

Britain and Ireland hope Sinn Fein will accept the offer of a seat at peace talks if the IRA ends its 25-year war.

Mr. Spring and other Irish government ministers believe an IRA ceasefire would silence the UVF guns but sources close to the Protestant extremists said they would fight against any attempt by Dublin to shape Northern Ireland's political future.

Sinn Fein sources said at the weekend that the party's response was being hampered at present and that the next two weeks could have a crucial effect on the peace process.



A Rwandan militiaman wounded by rebel mortar shrapnel is carried to the Red Cross hospital by a comrade (AFP photo)

Angolan foes fight on as diplomats approach final peace talks hurdles

HARARE (AFP) — The civilian death toll from the bitter civil war in Angola, one of Africa's bloodiest conflicts, increased Monday as negotiators and diplomats prepared to approach the final hurdles in marathon peace talks.

Heavy fighting in several regions between government troops and rebels of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) prevented any resumption of relief activities on which some two million people depend.

In the embattled central city of Cuito, 40 people were killed and 60 others wounded Sunday alone, according to official radio Monday. Food stocks for civilians have run out, the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) said.

For days, UNITA artillery has been pounding the town of Ndalatando in Cuanza-Norte province, which was retaken by the army some weeks ago, and the rebels have stepped up an offensive against Malanje in the north, the radio said.

Government forces meanwhile attacked UNITA positions at Seles, Waku-Kungo and Konda, in Cuanza-Sul province, the rebel Radio Vorgan reported Monday.

The fierce battles have for almost a month prevented the supply of food to Malaria and Uige in the north, Cuito and Huambo in the central

highlands, which is Angola's second city and UNITA's stronghold. Weekly airlifts of 15,000 tonnes of food to these towns had previously been the biggest such operation ever undertaken by the WFP.

As the fighting raged on, marathon peace talks in the Zambian capital Lusaka appeared to be entering their final phase, with negotiators due to return to their seats Tuesday.

Most of the outstanding problems, such as UNITA participation in a future government of national unity, are on the way to being resolved, according to the main mediator, U.N. special envoy Alioune Blondin Beye.

Mr. Beye went to Huambo at the weekend to brief UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi and also talked to President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos. He later proved upbeat.

For days, UNITA artillery has been pounding the town of Ndalatando in Cuanza-Norte province, which was retaken by the army some weeks ago, and the rebels have stepped up an offensive against Malanje in the north, the radio said.

The negotiators are as of Tuesday expected to move on to the thorny issue of the status of Mr. Savimbi and other leaders of UNITA, which plunged Angola back into civil war after losing U.N.-supervised general elections in September 1992.

Since the latest talks began last Nov. 15, the rival sides have agreed on major military and legal issues, including

China calls for help as flood toll hits 438

BEIJING (AFP) — China appealed for international help Monday to combat floods that struck the south of the country with the loss of more than 400 lives, and contemplated desperate measures to protect the wealthy province of Guangdong.

As Beijing prepared to dispatch a task force to the stricken region, a provisional toll released by the ministry of civil affairs said 438 people had been killed and 6,470 injured, and 48 million people affected across six provinces.

Worst hit was Guangdong province, where 134 people were confirmed dead and 52 are still missing, the statement said. Hong Kong news reports described the floods — triggered by successive days of torrential rains which persisted Monday — as the worst in half a century.

In central Hunan, 120 people had perished, the statement said, adding 82 had died in southern Guangxi, 50 in eastern Zhejiang, 32 in southeastern Jiangxi and 20 in southeastern Fujian.

In Beijing, Prime Minister Li Peng chaired an emergency meeting of state councilors and ministry officials, TV evening news reported.

He said Vice Premier Zhou Jiahua would lead a central government task delegation to Guangdong, Guangxi, Hunan and Jiangxi to help with relief work, listing priorities as protecting the Pearl River delta, rescuing people, ensuring food supplies and preventing epidemics.

Mr. Li and President Jiang Zemin telephoned the flood-hit provinces with messages of sympathy, the news report said.

The Civil Affairs Ministry said some 482,000 houses had been destroyed and three million hectares (7.4 million acres) of cultivated land inundated, putting the cost of damage at 16.86 billion yuan (\$2 billion).

Muslim separatist leader shot dead in Kashmir

SRINAGAR (AFP) — A top Kashmiri Muslim separatist leader and religious figure was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in the strife-torn Indian state of Kashmir Monday, police said.

Gazi Nissar, 50, who headed the fundamentalist group Ummat-i-Islami, or Islamic Community Front, was slain in the town of Dayalgam in the southern Kashmir district of Anantnag, police said in this Kashmir summer capital.

Tens of thousands of people took to the streets to mourn the killing, while scholars and politicians, police said.

Mr. Nissar's body was paraded through the streets to shouts of "Allah-u-Akbar" (God is great) and "Catch the killers," police said, and shops and offices closed down to protest the assassination.

The Indian security forces accused the dominant Kashmiri Muslim militant organization Hizbul Mujahideen of carrying out the killing, while Kashmiri Muslim separatist groups said it was the handiwork of Indian agents.

Verma Avelli, the government intelligence chief in Kashmir, charged that militants had told Mr. Nissar to attend an important meeting and then gunned him down.

Clinton calls Simpson case 'genuine tragedy'

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton Monday said the murder case involving U.S. football legend O.J. Simpson was a "genuine tragedy."

Mr. Clinton's comment, in an NBC Today show interview, came several hours before Mr. Simpson was to be arraigned in Los Angeles on charges of stabbing to death his glamorous ex-wife and her male companion.

"It's a genuine tragedy. In some ways, it's a story as old as time and in some ways it's a modern story," Mr. Clinton said when asked about the case.

Mr. Clinton said it was sad

that two people were killed, children were robbed of a mother, families lost loved ones and a man widely admired in this country is now caught in the web of a terrible tragedy."

He also implied that he joined millions of other Americans last Friday night watching live television coverage of a dramatic police pursuit of Simpson that ended with the 46-year-old athlete surrendering.

"I have to say after we all watched it in excruciating detail last weekend, the time has now come for the legal process to take its course."

Children, wounded evacuated across Rwandan battlelines

KIGALI (R) — Children screaming in agony were evacuated across battlelines in the Rwandan capital Kigali Monday after another night of heavy bombardment by rebels pushing in on remaining government positions.

About 150 victims of three days of shelling, including about 30 young orphans, were evacuated from the main Red Cross Hospital in the city centre to the sector controlled by the rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF).

"We have to try and make some space here, it's just overflowing. We have had so many casualties come in over the last few days," said American Doctor John Sundin.

He said between 500 and 600 fresh casualties had stretched the makeshift hospital's resources to breaking point.

The high-risk evacuation operation took place after the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the U.N.'s depleted force in the capital had received assurances from both sides that the convoy of four lorries would not be attacked.

The patients, many severely wounded and in a state of shock, were helped out of the hospital by Red Cross workers and into the waiting vehicles.

A five-year old girl, both her legs amputated below the knee, stared blankly into space as small arms fire crackled around the lush green hills of the central African city.

Nearby, Ntumbiri, three-years-old, cried out for his dead mother, massacred by Hutu death squads a few days earlier.

"It's just unbelievable, in-

credible what we're seeing here," said Eric Vreede, a surgeon with the international humanitarian charity Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF).

The convoy wound its way through wrecked streets and past roadblocks manned by government troops and their allies of the dreaded Interahamwe militia to the King Faisal Centre on the northeastern outskirts.

The centre has been hastily set up by MSF and the Red Cross. A Red Cross worker was killed Sunday when the main hospital was hit by a bomb and several others were wounded.

Aid workers hope to evacuate many more people over the next few days.

Overnight Sunday, the RPF threw volleys of mortars and shells at government positions.

On Mount Kigali, the last piece of high ground held by the government, muzzle flashes from machineguns and mortars flickered. Tracers lit up the night sky and machine gun fire rattled around the city.

"There was a lot of fighting but there hasn't been a significant change in territory," U.N. Assistance Mission In Rwanda (UNAMIR) military spokesman Major Jean-Guy Plante told reporters.

The RPF, which now controls about two-thirds of Kigali, has also launched small raids into government areas to rescue members of the Tutsi tribe from which they draw most of their support.

Several thousand are trapped in the Sainte Famille Complex in the city centre. A planned evacuation Sunday

was called off after a promised truce failed to materialize but UNAMIR said it restarted evacuations Monday.

France pushed ahead with its plans for military intervention to try to end the massacres in which as many as 500,000 people are now believed to have been killed.

The French embassy in Nairobi said a French envoy left the Kenyan capital Monday for Rwanda to explain France's plans, which the rebels strongly oppose.

Jean-Michel Marlaud, France's ambassador to Kigali whose mission was closed nearly two months ago, flew to Entebbe, Uganda.

RPF leader Paul Kagame has said he will not meet the envoy and it is not at all clear if he will even be allowed to enter Rwanda, despite diplomatic pledges from Paris for help.

Ambassadors from the nine-nation Western European Union (WEU) defence group meet in Brussels Tuesday to consider the French plan. A similar meeting last Friday failed to produce pledges from French allies that they would send troops.

While some have offered financial or logistical support, none seems willing to offer forces for a mission that could involve combat in a faraway country where they have no major interests, diplomats said.

"I would be very surprised if anyone else joins the French in what will be a very dangerous mission," said one Brussels-based diplomat from a WEU member state.

At Friday's meeting, Italy was the only country which mentioned the possibility of sending troops. Italian officials say that while Rome does not exclude taking part, it would do so only if other allies joined. That now looks highly unlikely.

Japan coalition tries to mend ties with Socialists

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's Japanese minority government, living under daily threat of defeat in a no-confidence vote, formally decided Monday to try and mend its broken alliance with the Socialists.

Representatives of parties in the ruling coalition agreed to seek policy talks with the Socialist Party as soon as the long-delayed state budget cleared parliament later this week.

"Now that the time is running short, we must make a

more aggressive approach to the Socialist Party and ask it to return to the coalition," a coalition official said.

The unreliable Socialists, who quit the alliance the day Mr. Murayama became prime minister in April, hold the key to his government's survival.

With their backing Mr. Murayama could face down the no-confidence motion the main opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has vowed to submit after passing

a stop-gap administration.

The coalition official refused to say if Monday's coalition meeting had considered the possibility of approaching the LDP as a possible partner in a new government.

Ichiro Ozawa, a key coalition policymaker, has ruled out extending a wholesale invitation to the LDP, the conservative party which ruled Japan for 38 years until the fledgling coalition toppled it in June 1993.

French Socialists in crisis as presidential poll looms

PARIS (AFP) — The resignation of party leader Michel Rocard has plunged France's main opposition Socialist Party into one of its most serious crises ever just 10 months before elections to succeed President François Mitterrand.

Mr. Rocard, a 63-year-old former prime minister, stepped down Sunday after losing a vote of confidence at a meeting of the party's Executive Committee.

The Socialists now face the arduous task of finding a suitable candidate to field in the presidential race. Most analysts agreed that Mr. Rocard's departure has cleared the way for the outgoing president of the European Commission, Jacques Delors.

Mr. Delors, whose current mandate in Brussels ends on Dec. 31, has steadfastly refused to commit himself to returning to Paris to run for France's highest office.

However, he is now under strong pressure to do so given that he is considered in political circles as the only Socialist with the status needed to have some chance of winning against conservative Prime Minister Edouard Balladur or neo-Gaullist Jacques Chirac.

According to the latest opinion polls, Mr. Balladur would beat Mr. Delors for the presidency, but Mr. Delors would beat Mr. Chirac.

The relative wealth of potential candidates on the French right highlights the shortage of plausible candidates on the left, where the Socialist Party lacks a charismatic leader to represent it in the presidential contest next April.

Observers agree too that it needs to modify its policies, notably in light of the disastrous 14.5 per cent it scored in the June 12 European parliamentary elections.

The lack of appeal of the mainstream Socialists was further highlighted by the success of a list led by Bernard Tapie, a businessman-turned-politician and former Socialist minister, who took a large chunk of the traditional left-wing vote with his populist approach.

He also implied that he joined millions of other Americans last Friday night watching live television coverage of a dramatic police pursuit of Simpson that ended with the 46-year-old athlete surrendering.

"I have to say after we all watched it in excruciating detail last weekend, the time has now come for the legal process to take its course."

Former French parliament speaker Henri Ennemanni (left) arrives at the Socialist Party executive committee meeting. Mr. Ennemanni was named interim party leader replacing

Michel Rocard who lost a confidence vote at the meeting following the party's drubbing in last week's European elections (AFP photo)

Mr. Balladur said last Friday that he would explain his plans for the next few months in the main news bulletins Monday on state television channel France-2.

Private channel TF1 said

Dahlin's late goal salvages 2-2 draw for Sweden against Cameroon

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — The Swedes hate losing World Cup games 2-1. On Sunday, they were just 16 minutes away from a fourth straight heartbreaking setback by that dreadful score.

But striker Martin Dahlin's 75th minute goal salvaged a 2-2 draw in the Group B opener against Cameroon. It was Sweden's first point in the World Cup finals since a 1-1 tie with Brazil in Argentina in 1978.

"In the last World Cup I was young and I was injured and not in form, so it was a big disappointment," said Dahlin. "And now I have scored my first World Cup goal so I'm very, very happy."

"One point is OK for us. We still have the chance to reach the second round."

Dahlin's goal came after Henrik Larsson, who came in for Jesper Blomqvist in midfield just 14 minutes earlier, hit the crossbar with a powerful right-foot drive from 30 metres. Dahlin chested the ball down and beat goalkeeper Joseph-Antoine Bell with a left-foot shot.

Roger Ljung, a defender, gave Sweden the lead with a header in the seventh minute. David Embe tied it with a controversial goal in the 31st and Francois Omam-Biyick, the other Cameroon striker, made it 2-1 early in the second half.

"It was a match of changing fortunes and shifting situations in extremes," said

Cameroon's coach Henri Michel. "In the closing minutes my team lost the concentration."

Dahlin was Sweden's goalscoring hero in the qualifying phase with seven goals, but he went scoreless in his last four exhibitions going into the World Cup. And he struggled early in the game up front against a tough Cameroonian defense.

The heat (30 Celsius, 86 Fahrenheit) also was a negative factor early on for the Swedes, who practiced a week in much cooler weather in San Diego before going to Los Angeles five days ago.

"The first 20 minutes were terrible," Dahlin said. "It was very, very tough. I felt it in my legs. It was hard to run. It took a long time to adjust to the heat."

It took the Cameroonian only 21 seconds to create the first dangerous chance in the game, a shot that goalkeeper Thomas Ravelli had some problems with because he was facing the sun.

But it was the Swedes who dominated early and deservedly took the early lead before a crowd of 83,959 at the Rose Bowl, including several hundred Swedish fans, but about 8,000 short of capacity.

Ljung, who played every minute in all 10 qualifiers, scored his first World Cup goal as he rose high to beat Bell with a close-range header near the far post after a free kick taken by Jonas Thern.

Embe tied it with a goal that was as much fluke as controversial. It came after Swedish defender Patrick Andersson failed to clear the ball inside the penalty area.

Marc Vivien Foé, Cameroon's offensive threat, blocked Andersson's attempted clearance, got a lucky bounce and then had a clear path towards the goal before passing to the unmarked Embe. Embe, who appeared to be in an offside position, then tapped the ball into the net.

Peruvian referee Alberto Tejada Noriega first made the offside call, but then changed his mind.

"It was a very strange behaviour by the referee," Swedish coach Tommy Svensson said. "First he whistled for offside himself without looking at the linesman. Then he talked it over with the linesman, asking him about his opinion. I couldn't see if it was offside or not. But the referee's action was strange."

Omam-Biyick, who scored Cameroon's top player along with veteran Roger Milla four years ago in Italy when the "Indomitable Lions" became the first African team to reach the quarterfinals in World Cup history, made it 2-1 just one minute into the second half.

A long pass by Rigobert Son Bahana set up Omam-Biyick's goal. With the ball sailing upfield, Omam-Biyick broke behind two defenders and tapped the ball just under



Swedish defender Joachim Bojerlund tries to tackle Cameroon's captain Stephen Tataw during their World Cup match Sunday at the Rose Bowl (AFP photo)

the left arm of Ravelli, who was making his 11th appearance for Sweden.

Omam-Biyick, who scored the game-winner for Cameroon in the famous 1-0 victory over then defending champion Argentina in the opening game of the 1990 World Cup finals, played well throughout opening the second half.

Michel, who was the winning coach when France won the 1984 Olympic soccer title at the Rose Bowl, said Omam-Biyick probably deserved the game MVP award as much as Dahlin.

2-match suspensions for Etcheverry, Nadal

DALLAS (AP) — Two match maximum suspensions were imposed Sunday for players from Spain and Bolivia who had been ejected for rough play in first-round World Cup matches. It was the second time in less than a week that soccer's ruling body made it clear it wants to keep the cup clean.

The disciplinary board of FIFA met for more than an hour before announcing the stiff punishment against Miguel Nadal of Spain and Marco Etcheverry of Bolivia for fouls in Friday's two openers.

The Spanish and Bolivian soccer federations also were fined 5,000 Swiss francs (\$3,570) each, the minimum under the rules for a red card.

The disciplinary panel, chaired by Pablo Porta Bussons of Spain, also declared that two yellow card warnings for one player on first-round games would mean automatic one-game suspension. And because of that, the committee decided that the usual one-game suspension for a red card was not enough.

"The committee adopted the principle that a direct expulsion will automatically buy a two-match suspension and fine," said Joseph Blatter, FIFA's general secretary.

Etcheverry, nicknamed the Devil, was thrown out of Bolivia's opener against Germany in Chicago after he kicked Lothar Matthaeus.

He clarified pre-

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Qualified persons can call at TACO SHELL RESTAURANT in Jubeiba, the Royal Scientific Society Street, near the University Hall for Parties.

performed well in the games. "This is the best start we could hope for," Rekdal said.

It took the Norwegians more than five decades to get back into the World Cup after their lone appearance in 1938. Now that they've got a victory, they're looking to open Sunday.

Rekdal, who came on for

Erik Mykland in the 79th

minute, beat his defender

and slid a low shot from the right side of the goal box.

Mexico missed its final

chance in the first minute of injury time when Luis Alves Zague's diving header hit the right post, bounced off his head and was cleared on a header by Henning Berg.

"I'm proud and happy and very tired, too," said Norwegian coach Egil Olsen. "I know we could have lost two goals in the last minute. I know we were lucky."

The victory, Norway's first

in World Cup play, tied it with Ireland atop the group after one game. Ireland beat Italy 1-0 on Saturday.

Mexico seemed right at home in the sizzling stadium, and the majority of the crowd of 52,395 were behind the red, white and green.

But Norway's few

thousand supporters were the ones cheering and dancing in the aisles at game's end.

Norway had plenty to

cheer about this year, consider-

ing the country put on a

flawless Winter Olympics and

77th minutes.

Thorstvedt parried away

Garcia's blast from the top of

the penalty area, knocked

away Garcia's blast from the

top of the penalty area,

knocked away Ambriz's 25-

metre shot and watched Sanchez's bicycle kick go wide from 7 metres to keep Mexico scoreless.

After Norway went ahead,

Jesus Ramon Ramirez led

Norway back, chipping a ball

to Zague, whose diving head-

er collided with the post.

Norway went ahead when

Jan Fjortoft gained control of

the ball near the penalty

area.

Fjortoft volleyed a hard

shot from the right corner of

the goalbox in the 41st that

Campos hit on the

deflected over the net.

Rune Bratseth four mi-

nutes later sent a diving head-

er just wide and high of the

opposite post.

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Maradona leads Argentina in his fourth World Cup

FOXBORO, Massachusetts (R) — Diego Maradona confounds his many critics by leading Argentina in his fourth World Cup, opening against debutants Greece in a Group D game at Foxboro Stadium Tuesday.

The stocky star of Argentina's 1986 triumph, so often written off since defeat in the 1990 final as he indulged in drugs, failed to keep fit and fought with his clubs and — once with an air gun — the media, can set a record for World Cup appearance if he plays in all three first-round matches.

Argentina will be looking to capitalise on the still considerable ball skills of Maradona to feed the dangerous strike pairing of 1990 veteran Claudio Caniggia Gabriel Batistuta.

"He's still the best player in the world. We'll be waiting for the balls from Diego's magic left foot to score," said Caniggia, also back from a drugs ban and set to play despite a bruised toe in his left foot, with a painkiller if necessary.

Coach Alfio Basile, heavily criticised back home for defensive tactics that almost cost Argentina a passage to the U.S. finals, is betting firmly on attack knowing a victory in the opening game against the group's weakest side is crucial.

His opposite number Alketa Panagoulas said Argentina had much better players



Today's matches,

Group D: Argentina vs. Greece in Boston at 19:35 Amman time.

Group C: Germany vs. Spain in Chicago at 23:00 Amman time.

Group D: Nigeria vs. Bulgaria in Dallas at 02:30 (Wednesday) Amman time.

than Greece, but that they would feel the pressure of their country's expectations.

"If they don't score in the first 20 minutes, we will gain confidence and it will become more difficult for Argentina to win," said Panagoulas, taking heart from some astonishing upsets in the first few days of the tournament.

Veteran defensive midfielder Panayotis Tsalouhides is expected to have the task of picking up Maradona in the last quarter of the field. Stoppers Yannis Kalitzakis and Thanasis Kolitsidakis will take Caniggia and Batistuta.

Panagoulas is expected to pack his defence and midfield and leave it to lone striker Nikos Machlas, 21 last Thurs-

day, to try to eke out a chance or two and make the most of them.

Basile may have plenty of individual talent in his squad, but he has to hope they gel after fitful recent performances.

The South American champions go into the match with a record of 23 wins and 17 draws in 44 matches under Basile since the 1990 World Cup final. They have never met Greece.

They will play with a classic back four, in which Oscar Ruggeri wins an Argentine record 95th cap, and a ball-winning and playmaking pair of Real Madrid's new signing Fernando Redondo and Diego Simeone of Sevilla.

Luis Islas of Independent looks set to take over in goal from 1990 penalty shooter hero Sergio Goycochea.

In an also European-based attacking quartet — apart from the clubless Maradona — Caniggia's Roma team-mate Abel Balbo, normally a striker, will play a more withdrawn role helping his captain.

Basile's squad have worked hard on their fitness in the last two weeks. Maradona and Balbo are expected to get back and help Redondo and Simeone to regain possession when opponents take the ball.

They will need to pace themselves in the intense heat. The match kicks off 12:35 p.m. local time, when



Diego Maradona

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Nikos Machlas, 21 last Thurs-

Nigeria poised for World Cup triumph'

DALLAS (R) — Cameroon blazed the World Cup trail for black Africa four years ago but Nigeria believe they will be the ones to take the trophy home from America.

While most countries are reluctant to predict anything, Nigeria's players and Dutch coach are oozing confidence.

"We are here to win the World Cup," said coach Clemens Westerhof. "Pressure? We don't know what that is."

African soccer came of age at the 1990 World Cup when Cameroon reached the quarter-finals and served notice that the continent would one day triumph.

If Westerhof is to be believed, that time has already come.

And it is his Nigerian side — crowned African champions in April — who will do it, not fellow qualifiers Cameroon.

"When I came to Nigeria five years ago I saw people playing football everywhere on small patches of land, under bridges, and I was impressed with the way they handled the ball. I was a footballer and they could do things I couldn't," he said.

"I knew if I could mix European tactics with what they already had, and bring in discipline, I could make a world champion team we could reach for the sky. That's what I have been doing for five years and that's why we are here now."

The shadow of Cameroon 1990 hangs heavy over Niger-

Spain seek courage for Germany match

LISLE, Ill. (AP) — After letting slip a golden chance of victory against South Korea, the Spanish squad Sunday was working to recharge team morale for Tuesday's crucial game against reigning world champion Germany.

"The key is to play well, with a lot of spirit and enjoyment," said coach Javier Clemente. "We have to play as a unit, a single block, not isolated, that's the key."

"And also not to be frightened, we shouldn't be scared of Germany," Clemente said. "If we lose, well, we lose but we'll do it without fear."

"We are well prepared and have the team and players to be the surprise of this World Cup. No-one should underestimate us."

Westerhof, who calls himself a "Dutch-erian" after five years in Lagos, says the key to Nigeria's strength lies in the number of players who play in European leagues where they have gained valuable top-level experience.

Striker Rashidi Yekini was top scorer at the African Nations' Cup as well as in the Portuguese league this season with Setubal.

Spain now plays its second Ground C game against Germany in Chicago's Soldier Field. It winds up its first round against Bolivia June 27.

Germany won its opening game against Bolivia 1-0.

Clemente highlighted Germany's midfielder Andreas Moeller as being one of the main players he feared in Tuesday's game.

Moeller is a vital player for Germany. He's capable of putting his stamp on the game with little difficulty," said the Spanish coach.

Clemente was speaking after a team workout in the Illinois Benedictine College in Lisle, on the outskirts of

Chicago. During the session, a group of local schoolchildren presented the players with a carnation each wishing them luck in this year's ninth World Cup.

On finishing the training, Clemente's plans received an unexpected setback on hearing the decision by the world soccer body FIFA to suspend Nadal, the squad's anchor man, for two games instead of the customary one because of the red card against South Korea.

"I think it's totally unfair and out of proportion," said Clemente.

It was confirmed, however, that key midfielder Fernando Hierro had recuperated from the muscle injury he suffered against South Korea and would be fit to play.

Tuesday's match will also see the return of Spain's top ranked veteran goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta who missed the South Korea game owing to a red card sanction.

None of the players were willing to enter into discussion with Spanish reporters over whether 24-year-old Santiago Canizares, who played superbly Friday, should stay on as the team's no. 1 goalkeeper.

"It's a totally unjust suggestion, we're 22 players and we respect the coaches decision as to who's to play," said Barcelona midfielder Jose Maria Bakero. "I thought I was going to play against Korea but I didn't and there was nothing more to it."

Bakero, however, is reported to be odds on to get his game from the start against Germany in place of youngster Julian Guerrero whom Clemente is said to feel may lack the old-hand experience necessary for this particular match.

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Chang safely through at Wimbledon

LONDON (AFP) — Michael Chang ignored the reputation of Wimbledon's notorious number-two court and came safely through his first round clash on the opening day of the 1994 championships here Monday.

Playing on the outside court, which has earned the nickname "graveyard of champions" because of the number of upsets there over the years, Chang saw off Alberto of Spain 7-6 (7/2), 6-4.

Although many top players dislike playing there because of the proximity of the crowd, Chang revelled in the atmosphere and ran down everything the Spaniard, a clay court specialist, could hit at him.

Other early first-round winners included Coetzer's compatriot Elna Reinach, Nathalie Tauziat of France and Romanian newcomer Irina Spirlea.

Reinach, 25, won an all-South African battle with junior compatriot Joanne Kruger 7-6 (8/6), 6-3 in a match which produced ten breaks of serve and intermittent rallies of sliced forehands. In the fifth game Kruger, 20, had a nasty fall but she was able to play on.

Chang now plays Australias' compatriot Michael Chang, 26, and a finalist at Queen's in 1992, returned service superbly but made too many errors trying to get down to low balls.

It ended another unhappy visit by the 131st-ranked Japanese player. In five visits he has yet to get past the second-round.

Woodforde now plays Czech Daniel Vacek who defeated Frenchman Gerard Solves 6-4, 6-2, 4-6, 2-6, 6-2 in a five-set thriller.

Woodforde's compatriot John Fitzgerald went out tamely in his first-round clash against eleventh-seed Petr Korda.

Meanwhile in the women's

round in four previous visits, ended with a flourish to score a 6-4, 6-0 victory and earn a second-round clash against either Chanda Rubin of the United States or Louise Field of Australia.

Coetzer, playing for the first time since her 1-6, 1-6 loss to the absent Mary Pierce at the recent French Open in Paris, took control in the second-set and kept her opponent constantly wrong-footed with excellent returns and volleys.

The 28-year-old left-hander from Adeleide, who is playing his ninth Wimbledon, surged into the second-round after scoring a 6-2, 7-5, 6-4 win.

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Meanwhile in the women's

Death threats caused Pierce to quit Wimbledon

LONDON (AFP) — A series of death threats recently caused French tennis star Mary Pierce to quit Wimbledon — not a fear of losing on grass.

Senior Wimbledon officials confirmed here Monday that the 19-year-old French Open finalist received two calls Friday saying that she would be murdered if she played at the championships.

But it had been reported that he was going to attempt to breach security at the All England Club by wearing a disguise.

It was the last straw after a week of intense media pressure in which she was told of rumours that a tabloid newspaper was planning to fly her estranged American-born father and former coach Jim Arnaud.

"Mary was clearly very worried about these calls and they put the seal on what has been a very miserable time for her," said a senior tournament official.

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Bomb blast in Iranian shrine kills 70, injures 114

TEHRAN (Agencies) — A bomb blast ripped through a crowded shrine in the Holy City of Mashhad on Monday killing 70 people and wounding 114, the official news agency IRNA said.

It was the highest number of people killed in a single bomb attack in Iran since the early years of the 1979 Islamic revolution and it was unprecedented for a religious shrine in Iran.

The pilgrims from all over Iran had gathered to commemorate Ashura, the anniversary of death of the third Shi'ite Muslim leader, Imam Hussein, grandson of the Prophet Mohammad, at the holiest Shi'ite shrine in the country.

Iran's spiritual guide Ayatollah Ali Khamenei issued a message blaming the main armed opposition group Mujahedeen-e-Khalq for the attack, while the government declared Tuesday a day of national mourning. The Mujahedeen denies responsibilities for the blast.

IRNA said the Iranians had gathered in the prayer hall of the mausoleum of the Imam Reza.

It was the worst single terrorist atrocity in the country since the 1988 ending of the eight-year Iran-Iraq war.

IRNA said 70 people were killed and 114 rushed to hospitals in the city, 720 kilometres east of Tehran.

It said most of the mourners had come from other parts of Iran to commemorate the anniversary, one of the Shiites' holiest days.

It was not known how many people were in the prayer hall when the bomb exploded.

The agency said it received a call from a man who called himself a spokesman for the Mujahedeen and claimed re-

sponsibility for the bombing.

The agency said the caller was meant to avenge the death of the "martyrs of the June 20th uprising," the date in 1981 when the Mujahedeen began its campaign against the government.

But in a statement issued from its office in France, a Mujahedeen spokesman "strongly condemned" the bombing. "Such criminal actions, which inflict casualties on innocent people, only serve the interests of the mullahs' regime," the spokesman said.

Several small bombs have exploded in Tehran in recent months and authorities have blamed Iraq, its enemy in the 1980-88 war, and the Mujahedeen, which is based in Iraq.

On June 1, Intelligence Minister Ali Fallahian claimed that his security men had smashed a network of saboteurs that was master-minded by two Iraqi army officers.

He claimed that it was the eighth such underground cell broken in four months.

Ayatollah Khamenei called on security officials to "thoroughly investigate the incident and bring those responsible for the attack to justice immediately."

Rescuers rushed to the scene and helped take the wounded, including seven who had serious injuries, to hospitals in Mashhad. The casualties included many women and children.

The opposition National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) also condemned the attack in a statement received in Nicosia. The Paris-based council is mainly comprised of the Mujahedeen.

Mashhad, Iran's second largest city and home to a large number of Afghan re-

NATO, Russia close to agreement on new ties

BRUSSELS (R) — The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and Russia, overcoming recent disputes over key European security issues, are close to a final agreement on their future relationship following weekend talks in Brussels, alliance sources said on Monday.

The sources told Reuters the two sides would probably complete a joint declaration later on Monday which would be issued when Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev signs NATO's Partnership for Peace scheme on Wednesday.

Moscow, complaining that the West ignored its views on issues such as Bosnia, had been pressing for special political ties with NATO beyond the partnership scheme to reflect its status as a major world power.

But diplomats said Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaly Churkin had shown great flexibility in talks on Saturday at NATO headquarters and that the alliance had managed to retain most of what it wanted in the declaration.

"Essentially, the Russians have backed off on some of their demands and accepted that NATO has to put certain very clear limits on the relationship," said one alliance diplomat.

Mr. Churkin, arriving for more talks at NATO, appeared confident that agreement was close. Asked whether he thought the joint declaration could be finalised on Monday, he told reporters: "Sure. Of course I am."

The short political declaration recognises that Russia has a particular weight in Europe and lays out general principles of the relationship between NATO and Moscow.

Moscow had asked for formal consultations with the alliance on security issues but NATO has set clear limits, insisting that it cannot give Russia any right to call talks or any influence over its decisions.

The joint statement — based on a one-page draft prepared by NATO — pledges that relations between the alliance and Russia will develop over time, but only on an informal basis.

Regent: Final settlement should be land in exchange for peace

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Monday reaffirmed Jordan's keenness on reaching a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Speaking at a meeting held at the Royal Court with a visiting delegation led by Andrew Greene, under-secretary at the British Foreign Office (see photo), the Regent stressed that a final settlement should be based on the concept of exchanging land for peace.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan, who attended the meeting, said the Regent reiterated the



Kingdom's commitment to the peace process in line with international legitimacy to achieve a comprehensive settlement.

The Regent also outlined His Majesty King Hussein's efforts towards a just peace

that would ensure security and stability for the whole region, the minister said.

The minister said that issues pertaining to Anglo-Jordanian ties were also reviewed at the meeting.

Families head for West Bank to visit Palestinian detainees

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

rights to the occupied territories.

"Only the category of people who could benefit most from this trip was chosen," said Mrs. Kassis.

"These people have no legal means of visiting the occupied territories other than through us," he said.

The imprisoned relatives are held in ten prisons where most of the 5,500 Palestinian prisoners are held by Israel.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has demanded that all Palestinian political prisoners be released by Israel. Nabil Shaath, a member of the Palestinian National Authority, recently said that the release of those prisoners was "the number one priority" for the new Palestinian self-rule government.

Relatives of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails who live in other Arab countries such as Lebanon, Syria and Iraq have not visited rights, Mr. Kassis said.

"Only families living in Jordan have obtained these visitation rights so far through us," he said. "We hope that soon there will be no more political prisoners so all this will end."

Most of the prisoners being released by Israelis in the last weeks are being forced to live in the Jenin and Gaza self-rule enclaves and Israel has not allowed them to return to their homes in other parts of the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem.

Sae Erekat, the local government minister in the Palestinian authority, protested last week to the Israelis about what he called a violation of the PLO-Israeli agreement.

Jordan to help education sector

(Continued from page 1)

states."

"Unless we do that, we would not be able to cope with the Israeli challenge, especially in the wake of a 27-year occupation period during which Israeli hegemony was imposed on the Palestinian people in various economic and social sectors," he said. "We are in need of Jordan's backing and of learning from its expertise in all domains."

After the Higher Education Council resumed its meeting, Prince Hassan reviewed the main features that characterised efforts exerted since 1986 to develop higher education. He said these efforts resulted in the formation of a higher education policy working group and 45 specialised committees and other sub-committees which have held many meetings and prepared many reports.

He noted that the most important issues in this regard are the new structure of

secondary education, the vertical links with universities, developing community colleges and curricula and supporting universities.

Prince Hassan said the rise in unemployment among community college graduates testify to the absence of comprehensive planning, warranting a review of community colleges' curricula and programmes and urging an update to their role to make it fit the needs of the local society.

The Regent said the number of students at government universities has reached this year 50,000, adding that this tangible expansion in higher education created an imbalance between the number of graduating students and the available job opportunities.

The Crown Prince said Jordan's experience in opening private universities requires monitoring their performance.

Chopra: High Jordanian potential

(Continued from page 1)

directly refer to the circulation of the dinar in the occupied territories, the issue was raised during a meeting he had with the Finance Committee of the Lower House of Parliament on Monday.

Abdul Karim Kabariti, an Aqaba deputy and member of the committee, said he called on Mr. Chopra to help Jordan maintain the stability of the dinar, assist it secure debt relief and extend assistance to the Kingdom to plug its budgetary deficits for a period of 10 years.

"We expressed appreciation of the role of the World Bank," Mr. Kabariti told the Jordan Times. "Most members of the Financial Committee share that view despite the sensitivities about the perceived role of the World Bank and trust the advice and recommendations the bank gives to Jordan," he said.

Mr. Kabariti said he also expressed appreciation for the personal involvement of Mr. Chopra in helping Jordan get out of the current situation to a better one that will put an end to the state of depression that some segments of the society are living in."

"A balance has to be created between our ambitions and sacrifices and our foreign debts," Mr. Kabariti said he told Mr. Chopra.

Any peace in the region would not be complete without realistic improvements in the life of the people, he said. "We in Jordan believe that peace is a strategic choice, an objective and a political

priority," he said. "But it is unjust for the world to expect us to accept all that is offered and discussed if these are not related to Jordan's real resources and a comprehensive social perspective of the Kingdom."

That was an implicit reference to World Bank recommendations that structural reforms, including upward revision of tariffs be introduced in the water and energy sectors.

Mr. Kabariti said he made three specific proposals to the World Bank. These were:

— Setting up a \$700 million fund to help Jordan maintain the stability of the dinar and protect the currency against any effort to weaken it in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and making the dinar the official currency of the Palestinians, if that could be agreed upon, without affecting the exchange rate value of the currency.

— Full or partial write-off of Jordan's debts to ensure that the ratio between the debts and the gross domestic product is "reasonable" under international standards."

— Aid to Jordan amounting to 51 per cent of its annual budget for the next 10 years.

Realisation of these proposals, along with the economic restructuring programme, could help Jordan move on to a new era of growth and prosperity," Mr. Kabariti said.

It was not immediately known how Mr. Chopra responded to the call.

Israeli troops harass Shaath

(Continued from page 1)

were "internal Palestinian reasons." The planned visit angered right-wing Israelis who staged protests.

Dr. Shaath had announced a "purely personal visit" to East Jerusalem.

He admitted that Israel, which wants to ban all aspects of self-rule from the Holy City, had interfered.

The new Palestinian "minister" of international cooperation and planning said he hoped to tour Jerusalem next week.

"There is a need for security coordination and they said my visit would complicate that," Mr. Shaath told reporters.

"They told me about their security plans and let me decide to go or not. I need to go to Gaza and I asked to postpone the visit."

However, Dr. Shaath spent the day in Jericho and left only well into the afternoon, taking a detour to avoid Jerusalem.

Then he faced an ordeal as the Israeli army denied him passage at a checkpoint. Dr. Shaath had to return to Jericho and contacted Amnon Shabak, Israel's deputy chief of staff.

"Someone irresponsible thought of stopping me," Dr. Shaath said. "This is totally unacceptable. They have no right to stop us between Jericho and Oujia or between Jericho and the West Bank."

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Mr. Carter made clear he thought the U.S. sanctions effort should be dropped and said he thought "the crisis is over."

British society honours Prince Hassan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Geographical Society of Britain (RGS) has conferred its highest award to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Honorary Membership was conferred on the Crown Prince at the society's awards and medal ceremony on June 13 by the society's president, Lord Jellicoe.

Dr. Hani Mulki, secretary general of the Higher Council for Science and Technology collected the "Royal Scroll" when visiting the society on June 17 to take it to the Crown Prince personally.

Honorary Membership award is given to "mark outstanding services to public life and to international affairs that merit recognition by the society." Recent recipients of this accolade include the Prince of Wales and Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand.

A press release issued by the Jordan Information Bureau in London said:

The Crown Prince has a strong personal commitment to environmental conservation. Among many other activities, he founded the Royal Scientific Society and the Higher Council for Science and Technology. He has stressed conservation in four different national development plans that he chaired. In particular, a speech by the Crown Prince to the United Nations General Assembly led to his founding the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues, many of whose reports have been on geographical themes. He was deeply involved in Jordan's planning for the Rio Earth summit and has stressed sustainable development in the Middle East peace process and other international fora.

Crown Prince Hassan is

closely involved with the Royal Geographical Society, since he invited RGS scientists to join Jordanian colleagues in the Jordan Badia Research and Development Programme, which is currently in the field in the desert in eastern Jordan.

U.S. senator turned away from Haiti checkpoint

FUMBYA, Haiti (Agencies)

— Armed soldiers turned back U.S. Senator Bob Graham when he tried to visit Haiti's border with the Dominican Republic to check on enforcement of international economic sanctions against Haiti.

Accompanied by U.S. Ambassador William Swing, Gen. Graham's visit came two days after Haiti's de facto government barred unauthorised people from the border, the coastline, international waters and other "strategic areas."

The captain of a seven-man contingent at a checkpoint in Fumbya, seven miles (11 kms) from the border, told Gen. Graham pleasantly but firmly that he needed written authorisation to proceed.

Gen. Graham called the decree restricting people's movement, "the kind of action that you would expect from an authoritarian regime which considers itself to be increasingly isolated and under threat."

Provisional President Emile Jonassaint, installed by the army last month but not recognised by foreign governments, issued the movement edict late Friday.

The embargo is designed to pressure Haiti's ruling military to turn over power to elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was ousted in a September 1991 coup. President Clinton last week barred most financial transactions between the two countries, and commercial flight will stop June 25.

Meanwhile, the United States will begin broadcasting messages to the Haitian army in the next few days urging them to rebel against the military junta, the New York Times reported Monday citing government officials.

Ten tonnes of marijuana seized in Netherlands

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands (AFP) — Dutch police seized 10 tonnes of marijuana from a jeans-filled container and arrested three people including a 41-year-old Briton, a police statement said Sunday.

The marijuana, with a street value of about \$16 million, was burnt as soon as it had been seized, police said. The identities of the Briton and the Dutchmen aged 30 and 36 were not released, in accordance with Dutch tradition.

The container had been picked up Friday night by Dutch customs during a routine check in Rotterdam port.

Column 8

Philip Morris chairman bows out

NEW YORK (AFP) — Tobacco giant Philip Morris' chairman and chief executive, Michael Miles, has stepped down after three years in the post. Mr. Miles said he believed it was time for a "career Philip Morris executive in the top job." He previously served